

**SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL**  
**OCTOBER 3, 2016**  
**PROCEEDINGS REGULAR SESSION**  
**CLASBEY CENTER – COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**7:00 P.M.**

Mayor Connie George presiding.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Council members present: Kenny Maxwell, Don Dillman, Joy Thompson and John Parker. 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 September 30, 2016. The meeting was audio recorded.

**Approval of Agenda** – Joy Thompson motioned to approve the agenda as presented. John Parker seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

**Minutes** – September 6 and 29, 2016 – John Parker motioned to approve the September 6 and 29, 2016 minutes. Don Dillman seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

**Public Testimony:** None.

**City Administrator’s Report** -- City Administrator Bruce Lundy reported.

**Lightning Strike at Water Plant** – Water Superintendent Jason Mercer and Layne Christenson Company made the repairs at the water plant which were necessary as a result of the lightning strike. Lundy spoke to MIRMA, the City’s insurance carrier, and it appears they will pay for the repairs. As soon as the invoice comes in he will get that sent off to them.

**Sidewalks** -- The representative at the phone company when this sidewalks project was organized has retired; his replacement knew nothing of the project. The City’s engineer contacted him and explained the details. He apparently put it on the company’s schedule. After a couple of weeks, nothing was still done. When contacted, it was verified that the work order was in and unclear why it wasn’t completed. The lines need moved and three utility poles taken out that are in the way so the construction company Hoggatt can finish up. Hoggatt believes there are four days of work left after those poles are moved. Minnie Cline Elementary and the Andrew County Health Department are participating in a Walk to School Day on October 12<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully everything will be done and ready for that event. The phone company representative called back, apologized and said his contractor will be there Monday or Tuesday next week to take care of the poles and lines.

**Golf Debt** -- The Golf Committee asked permission to pay off the last Golf debt payment early. The original payment of \$32,745 was due March 1, 2017. The Lending Agency set up that final payment of \$30,875 early as requested and the payment went through October 5th for a savings of \$1870.

**Bid Openings** – The City had three bid openings: two on Sept 15th and one on the 29th. The first was for underwriters for the refinancing of the 2007 water bonds. The second was for the grinder pump for the wastewater plant. **Underwriters** -- There were five proposals for the 2007 water bond refinancing underwriters which have been sent to the City’s financial advisor Tionna Pooler for evaluation. Pooler will have more information at the next meeting.

**Sewer Bids** -- There were four bids for the sewer plant grinder pumps. Wastewater Superintendent Jason Long and Lundy reviewed the bids to make sure each included the requested specifications. The breakdown of those bids was attached to the City Administrator's report. JCI of Lee Summit was the low bidder: \$29,780. Long confirmed that the pump meets all of the specifications. He would like to purchase the JCI pump. An amount of \$40,000 was budgeted. John Parker asked since the third lowest bidder, Savannah Machine, does 99% of repairs, will they be able to repair this pump if needed. Savannah Machine can repair the rings and other repairs. JCI would also repair if needed. Don Dillman motioned to approve JCI's Wastewater grinder pump bid. John Parker seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

**Park mower** -- There were five bidders for the park mower. Park Manager Donnie Knorr reviewed the bids. The lowest bid on diesel \$14,034 EXMARK from Jackson Lawn with a three year warranty compared to two year warranty for the second lowest bidder. Jackson repairs mowers if needed. Don Dillman asked why the Park Board didn't make a recommendation. The Park Board had pre-approved the mower by Knorr. John Parker motioned to approve the Jackson Lawn bid for a diesel Park Mower. Don Dillman seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

**Fire Truck Financing** -- At a previous meeting Chief David Vincent brought up the need for a 75 foot aerial fire truck with a platform that would help fight fires on the town square. He estimated a cost of \$800,000 to a million dollars. Lundy contacted US Bank and USDA to compare financing rates and help to determine if it is even possible. US Bank sent information on an \$800,000 loan at 1.91% interest at 8 yearly payments of \$108,789 or 2.03% interest at 10 yearly payments of \$89,191.75. Lundy contacted USDA. They have a Community Facility Loan and Grant. The rates are based on population and Median household income. Based on those criteria, the City of Savannah would qualify for a grant of up to 15% and a low interest loan. USDA does not have enough money for 15% of 800,000. The maximum they could do would be about \$40,000 grant and a loan for the remainder at 2.375% for 10 to 15 years. USDA called back later and said could go up to \$60,000 and extend the loan longer to 15 to 20 years.

**Park Board** -- At a previous Park Board meeting it was advised that Park Board Member Aimee Kennedy had resigned. A motion is needed to accept her resignation. If you know of anyone else who might be interested in being on that board send the person up to City Hall to fill out an application. Don Dillman motioned to accept Aimee Kennedy's resignation. John Parker seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

**Voluntary Annexation** -- There are about 36 acres of a Knorr tract of land that is on the east side of town that is being voluntarily annexed into the City. It has been discussed and approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission. This notice has to be published in the newspaper and then there will be a public hearing on the matter at the October 19th Council Meeting. At that meeting Council will be asked to consider the annexation and make a motion to approve or deny it.

**Andrew Co Ambulance Trunk or Treat** -- is coming up again. The Ambulance asked if they can block off 3rd street from Pearl to Chestnut on Halloween from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., like they did last year. Lundy told them it would be fine. They have a pretty good crowd and it does not cause the City any problem. Joy Thompson motioned and Kenny Maxwell seconded to formally approve the request to close the street. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

**Sales Tax Increase** -- In November the City will be asking the voters to approve ½ cent sales tax increase for the General Fund. Sales tax here in town is 8.425 cents on the dollar but the City

of Savannah only receives two cents of that. One cent is for the General Fund, one half cent for parks and one half cent for City Streets. Lundy would like for everyone to think of ways to economically get the word out. The City has done a good job for the last 20 years making things work with that one cent. The 2016-17 budget is based on that one cent; however the prices of everything continue to increase. It is time to ask for this one half cent increase. The General Fund is used to finance Police, Fire, Streets, and City Hall. Joy Thompson asked about passing out flyers in the Homecoming parade. Council will look into having a vehicle in the parade and hand out flyers.

**Sceapp Grant** -- Jason Long and Lundy met with the Trekk Engineering to discuss the findings on the completed Inflow and Infiltration Study. Trekk identified two locations in town that they feel are responsible for a considerable amount of stormwater that is going into the sewer system: 1) the Town Square area and 2) the Porter & Adkins Additions South of T Hwy. In the middle to end of October, Trekk will mail out letters to property owners in these areas asking them to voluntarily allow evaluation of the sewer connections and lines on their properties. The goal is to reduce the inflow or infiltration of stormwater and provide the most dependable, cost-affective, and environmentally sound wastewater service possible.

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

**City Attorney's report** -- City Attorney Emily Bauman reported that all the municipal court tickets are in early. Court isn't until the 12<sup>th</sup>. She does not anticipate a huge docket that day. Voluntary annexation looks like it will be resolved at the next Council meeting. Letters to the trailer court will be going out soon. She thanked Ralph Stanton for sharing his knowledge on the issue. Bauman has been reviewing documents on sewer and other issues. Don Dillman motioned to approve the City Attorney's report. Kenny Maxwell seconded. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

**Second Public Testimony:** None.

## **ELECTED OFFICIALS DISCUSSION**

**Mayor's Report** – Mayor Connie George attended the Planning and Zoning meeting. She met with the Governor at Minnie Cline Elementary regarding the school's grant. She also attended the Park Board meeting.

**Council Members Discussion** -- Joy Thompson has been out of town. She asked about updating the emergency list contacts for business owners with the police and dispatcher. Chief Vincent said that was done recently; he was not sure which ones she was referring to. Thompson mentioned getting something together for the Homecoming Parade. John Parker asked when the contract comes up next for the hay. It is every year. A few people complained about the Johnson grass.

Joy Thompson motioned to approve going into Closed Session for reason of Litigation 610.021(1). John Parker seconded. Vote: Dillman: aye; Maxwell: aye; Parker: aye; Thompson: aye. Motion carried.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** Litigation 610.021 (1) – No motion was made in Closed Session.

Joy Thompson motioned to go back into Open Session. Don Dillman seconded. Vote: Dillman: aye; Maxwell: aye; Parker: aye; Thompson: aye. Motion carried.

The Golf Committee members and other public came back into the meeting. City Attorney Emily Bauman summarized that former Golf Course member Erin Larison should have been allowed due process before his membership was revoked. This meant there was violation based on the lack of due process. No one is condoning what happened. The issue is entirely a legal one: his membership was revoked without giving him notice of due process. He was not given a chance to come before the Golf Committee and be heard. Her recommendation is to reinstate him not because his actions were warranted but because the due process was not awarded to him before the revocation. Bauman will be assisting to put policies in place not just for the golf course but for the parks as well for disciplinary procedures to prevent something like this happening again. She will draft the policies. Bauman will be at the next Golf Committee meeting. Part of it is the difference between a public and private golf course. As a public, city-owned course, they have the right to refuse service. However, the revocation or suspension of membership needs the person to have the right to due process. She said the fault does not lie with anyone.

John Parker motioned to reinstate Erin Larison's access to golf course membership and allow him to purchase a new one without a late fee, due to the lack of due process. Joy Thompson seconded with a comment not to let it occur again. Vote: 2 yes: Thompson and Parker; no: Dillman, Maxwell. Mayor Connie George voted yes following the City Attorney's advice that Larison did not have due process. The policies need updated.

**Adjournment** -- No further business to discuss. Council adjourned at 8:50 p.m. on a motion by John Parker and seconded by Joy Thompson. Motion carried on 4 yes votes.

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Connie George, Mayor

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