

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE SAVANNA CITY COUNCIL, CONDUCTED AT 7:30 P.M., ON TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2009 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT 101 MAIN STREET SAVANNA, ILLINOIS 61074**

Invocation The invocation was given by Pastor Wayne Carvell, Pastor.

Call to Order The meeting was called to order by Mayor Stebbins at 7:30 P.M. Notice of the meeting was delivered to all board members and was posted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

Pledge of Allegiance The Mayor led the Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call The Mayor called for member roll call with Ms. Bowman; Mr. Grummitt; Mr. Long; Ms. Hunsaker; Mr. Robinson Mr. Fosdick, Mr. Griswold and Mayor Stebbins present, constituting a quorum. Others Present: City Clerk, City Attorney, Public Works Superintendent, Police Chief, City Comptroller, and Members of the Press, and several citizens.

Absent Ms. Hansen

Consideration of the Agenda The Mayor called for consideration of the agenda and requesting Penny Gharst be added to the comment portion of the agenda and further requested Ms. Gharst present to the Council, as the first item on the agenda and asked for any additional modifications to the agenda. With no additional modifications, Mr. Grummitt motioned, seconded by Mr. Robinson, to approve the agenda, as modified. The Mayor called for further discussion and a roll call, on the motion with all members present voting in favor. The Mayor declared the motion carried and the agenda approved as modified.

Consideration of Previous Minutes The Mayor called for presentation and consideration of the minutes of the June 23, 2009 regular Council meeting and the previous June 23, 2009 (Distributed by the Clerk at the meeting) Executive Session Minutes with Ms. Bowman making a motion, seconded by Mr. Fosdick, to approve both minutes, as submitted. The Mayor called for further discussion and a roll call vote on the motion, with all members present voting in favor. The Mayor declared the motion carried and said minutes approved.

## **Agenda Items**

**Penny Gharst, Comments** The Mayor called for presentation and comments from Ms. Gharst with the following comments offered for further Council consideration;

- Spoke in opposition to the recent graffiti regulations approved by the Council – noting that said regulations are designed to fine the victim and requested the Council consider revisiting these regulations for revision and modification.
- Spoke on general police protection related to the graffiti.
- Requested the Council consider allowing tavern owners to run for local political office.
- Asked about the funding for filming at a recent Poopy's event.

The Mayor declared time has elapsed for the presentation and referred all points presented to various committee Chairs for any additional review and consideration.

## **Committee Reports**

- Skate Board Park and Snowmobile Trail Committee The Mayor called for presentation of this report with Mr. Fosdick, Committee Chair reviewing the activities of the Committee meeting. After discussion, Mr. Robinson motioned to accept this report without modification. The Mayor called for additional discussion or comments and a roll call on the motion with all members voting in favor. The Mayor declared the motions carried and approved.
- Hotel/Motel Committee The Mayor called for presentation of this report with Mr. Grummitt Committee Chair reviewing the activities of the Committee meeting asked for clarification on the Committee authorizing funding requests for advertising purposes. Mayor Stebbins responded that the Committee has always been allowed to expend funds within budgetary restraints, without Council preapproval. After discussion, Mr. Griswold motioned to approve the Hotel/Motel Committee report, as submitted. The Mayor called for further discussion and a roll call on the motion with all members present voting in favor. The Mayor declared the motion carried and approved.
- Building Public Property Committee The Mayor called for presentation of this report with Ms. Bowman, committee Chair, reviewing Committee activities and recommending action on the following committee recommendations;
  - Authorizing Public Works to Advertise for Demo and Removal of the structures located at 10 Chauncy Street, 626 Viaduct Road and the burned and standing structures on the property commonly known as "Betty Mom's" and more specifically located on Bowen Street, at the intersection to Pike Street. After discussion, the Mayor called for consideration of this committee recommendation with Mr. Grummitt making a motion, seconded by Mr. Long, to approve this recommendation. The Mayor called for

additional discussion and a roll call on the motion, with all members present voting in favor. The Mayor declared the motion carried and approved.

- Surplus property The committee recommends directing the City Attorney to compose a Resolution allowing the disposal of City surplus items with the Mayor so directing. The Mayor further directs all department heads to compose a listing of surplus items for review by the Building and Property Committee at their next regular meeting. This action approved by Council consensus.
- Drilling Geothermal Wells on Public Property, Historical Society The committee recommends the City Council support the Historical Society's efforts to complete this proposed project. After discussion, the Mayor called for action on this recommendation with Mr. Grummitt making a motion to support this effort by instructing the City Attorney to prepare a Resolution for consideration and in support of this project. The Mayor called for further discussion and a roll call on the motion, with all members present voting in favor. The Mayor declared the motion carried and approved.
- Use of Council Chambers and City Property, Mayor The Committee recommends the City Attorney compose a policy for using city equipment and property with the Mayor so directing. This action approved by Council consensus.
- The Mayor called for consideration of this Committee report with Mr. Robinson making a motion, seconded by Mr. Grummitt to approve the Committee report, as submitted. The Mayor called for addition comments and a roll call on the motion with all members present voting in favor. The Mayor declared the motion carried and approved.
- Finance Committee – The Mayor called for presentation of this report with Mr. Fosdick, Committee Chair presenting the following Committee recommendations for action by the Council:
  - Mr. Fosdick referred to the City a committee recommendation for a status report from the City Attorney on litigation related to Mr. Robert Kramer. The City Attorney briefed the Council on the current status and recommended other legal actions to pursue. After discussion, the Mayor directed the City Attorney to proceed with the additional legal actions, as discussed. This action received Council consensus approval.
  - Mr. Fosdick referred to a Committee recommendation allowing Department Heads to join various local service clubs, to demonstrate community involvement, with the City paying associated dues and with Mayor prior approval. This action approved by consensus of the members present.
  - Mr. Fosdick referred to a committee recommendation to approve a Public Works expenditure of \$6000.00 for tree removal work and after discussion, Mr. Fosdick made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bowman, to approve said expenditure. The Mayor called for further discussion and a roll call, on the motion with all members present voting in favor. The Mayor declared the motion carried and approved.
  - Mr. Fosdick referred to a committee recommendation to approve a Public Works expenditure of \$5000.00 to replace deficient traffic signs throughout the City and after discussion, made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bowman, to approve the expenditure. The Mayor called for a roll call on the motion with all members present voting in favor. The Mayor declared the motion carried and approved.
  - Mr. Fosdick referred to a committee recommendation to approve a Public Works expenditure of \$20,000.00 for replacing deficient fire hydrants and after discussion, made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bowman, to approve the expenditure. The Mayor called for a roll call on the motion with all members present voting in favor. The Mayor declared the motion carried and approved.
  - Mr. Fosdick referred to a committee recommendation to approve a Public Works expenditure of \$2350.00 for replacing deficient barricades and after discussion, made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bowman, to approve the expenditure. The Mayor called for a roll call on the motion with all members present voting in favor. The Mayor declared the motion carried and approved.
  - Mr. Fosdick referred to a committee recommendation to approve a Public Works expenditure of \$25,000.00 for repairs and upgrade work to Well #4 and after discussion made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bowman, to approve the expenditure. The Mayor called for a roll call on the motion with all members present voting in favor. The Mayor declared the motion carried and approved.
  - Mr. Robinson motioned, seconded by Ms. Bowman to approve the finance report , as presented. The Mayor called for additional discussion and a roll call on the motion with all members present voting in favor. The Mayor declared the motion carried and approved.

**Warrant #3** The Mayor called for review and consideration of Warrant #3 totaling \$179,272 and noted the Finance committee has recommended approval, as written. Mr. Long asked for clarification of a petty cash expenditure for \$12.45 for water purchase with the Comptroller clarifying the purchase was for drinking water for the fire department consumed by the fire personnel during a fire.

**Communications** The Mayor called for comments on a letter received from Riverview Center Inc. requesting a donation supporting their efforts and also a notification received from Mediacom announcing changes to the channel line-up. After no discussion, the Mayor accepted the correspondence with no action initiated by the Council.

**Bids** The Mayor called for bids for selling a 1986 Bronco, declared surplus with the following bids received: Mr. Andy Shaffer - \$153.50, Mr. Travis Housenga - \$475.00, Mr. Mark Updike - \$210.00 and Mr. Bruce E. Carney - \$252.00. The Mayor called for action on the bids submitted with Mr. Grummitt making a motion, seconded by Mr. Robinson to sell the 1986 Bronco to Mr. Travis Housenga for \$475.00. The Mayor called for additional comments and a roll call on the matter with all members present voting in favor. The Chair declared the motions carried and approved.

**Monthly Reports** The Mayor called for consideration and review of the June 2009 Police, Fire, and Public Works Department monthly reports. After limited discussion and review, Mr. Fosdick motioned, seconded by Ms. Bowman, to approve all three reports, as submitted. The Mayor called for additional discussion and a roll call on the motion with all members present voting in favor. The Mayor declared the motion carried and approved.

**Unfinished business** The Mayor called for any unfinished business with no business brought before the Council.

### **New business**

- **Intersection Solicitors License VFW Post 2223.** The Mayor called for action on this application, with Mr. Fosdick making a motion, seconded by Mr. Robinson to approve this license. The Mayor called for more discussion and a roll call on the motion with all members present voting in favor. The Mayor declared the motion carried and approved.
- **Use of City Equipment by Volunteers to install Water line for Great River Outreach.** The Mayor addressed the Council stating the volunteers are City Public Works employees and asked the Council to consider allowing said employees (on their own time) to utilize city equipment to complete this project, with GRO assuming the cost of any materials consumed to complete the project. Mr. Robinson asked for clarification on insurance related to the project with the City Attorney advising the City may be liable if an accident occurred involving city equipment during the performance of this project. After a full discussion, Mr. Fosdick motioned, seconded by Mr. Griswold to approve this arrangement. The Mayor called for additional discussion on the motion with all members present voting in favor. The Chair declared the motion carried and approved.

**Citizens , Department Heads, and Council Members Comments** The Mayor called for comments with the following results;

Penny Gharst – comments hereinabove discussed.

- **Mr. Moon, Police Chief** commented he fully supports the graffiti ordinance recently passed and approved by the Council and is confident long term enforcement will reduce graffiti in the City.
- **Mr. Long** asked for information on any planned activities to be initiated related to the Gene Flack plaques recently installed at the Bike Trail. Mayor Stebbins stated that an event honoring the former Mayor's involvement in the construction of the bike trail is planned with a ceremony activity date to be announced soon.
- **Mr. Grummit** asked for a status report on the replacement of street name signs. Mr. Lindeman stated that this work task is on the department work list and the PWD has been busy on other work items.
- **Ms. Hunsaker** stated the Hotel/Motel Committee report included approval of committing \$2000.00 for advertising the Haunted Forest Event. Ms. Hunsaker noted this event does not generate any heads in beds and the funds collected for Hotel/Motel taxes are not to be used for activities that does not generate any heads in beds and further that the committee should revisit this approved action for additional review. The Mayor referred this issue to the Hotel/Motel committee for review.

**Motion To Go Into Executive Session** The Mayor called for a motion to enter into Executive Closed Session to discuss the appointment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees. Mr. Robinson motioned, seconded by Mr. Fosdick to enter into closed session to discuss the appointment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees. The Mayor called a roll call on the motion with all members present voting in favor. The Chair declared the motion carried and approved and called for a 5-minute recess at 8:36:32 PM to clear the room before convening in closed session. The Mayor asked Mr. Lindeman and Mr. Bundy to attend the closed session.

**Action After Executive Session** The Council exited the closed session and the Mayor declared the Council in open session at 9:01:45 and called for any considerations with Mr. Robinson making a motion, seconded by Ms. Bowman to amend a reinstatement agreement, as discussed in executive session and authorize Mayor Stebbins and John Lindeman, PWS to affix their signatures to the modified document and further to allow the reinstatement of Michael Bundy to full employee status with the City PW Department on Monday July 20, 2009. The Mayor called for additional discussion and a roll call on the motion with all members present voting in favor. The Chair declared the motion carried and approved.

**Adjournment** With no further agenda items to consider the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:05:16 PM

Minutes Composed by Paul Hartman, Savanna City Clerk