

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE SAVANNA CITY COUNCIL,
CONDUCTED AT 7:30 P.M. ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 08, 2011 IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBERS AT 333 CHICAGO AVENUE SAVANNA, ILLINOIS 61074**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Stebbins called the meeting to order on November 08, 2011 at 7:30 P.M. Notice of the meeting was delivered to all City Council members and posted in accordance with the State of Illinois Open Meetings Act.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Stebbins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The Mayor asked for member roll call with Mayor Stebbins, Mr. Long, Mr. Grummitt, Mr. Griswold, Mr. David, Ms. McCombie, Ms. Hunsaker, and Mr. Robinson present, constituting a quorum. Absent Ms. Haffey. Other Officials Present: City Attorney, City Clerk, City Comptroller, Fire Chief, Police Chief, PWS, and in the audience Mr. Mike Miller, Mr. Walter Shrake and Mark Schoening from the local news media and Larry Thomson.

CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA

The Mayor asked for consideration and discussion of the Council Agenda and with no discussion, Ms. Hunsaker moved, seconded by Mr. Grummitt, to approve the agenda, as written. The Mayor asked for further discussion or questions on the motion and hearing none asked for a voice roll call on the motion, with all City Council members present voting in favor. The Mayor declared the motion passed, carried, and said agenda approved, as written.

Consideration of the Minutes of the October 25, 2011 Regular Council Meeting

The Mayor asked for comments, discussion, modifications, and amendments to said minutes. The Council by majority consensus of the members present dispensed with the reading of said minutes. After limited discussion, the Mayor asked for consideration of said minutes with Mr. Grummitt moving, seconded by Ms. Hunsaker, to approve said minutes, as written. The Mayor asked for supplemental comments or discussion on the motion and hearing none asked for a voice roll call on the motion with all members present voting in favor. The Mayor declared the motion passed, carried and said minutes approved and accepted, as written.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee The Mayor asked the Finance Committee Chair Mr. Robinson to present the action activities requiring City Council consideration discussed and reviewed at a Committee meeting conducted on 11/07/11. The Committee reviewed and accepted the October 2011 financial reports generated by the Comptroller's Office, the Committee recommended payment of Warrant #7 totaling \$261,776.59, the Committee Chairperson read from a City memo related to real estate taxes for abandoned property located on

Viaduct Road (\$2,769.53) and Chauncy Street (\$2,651.11) and after discussion, Mr. Grummitt moved to deny payment for said real estate taxes, seconded by Mr. Robinson. The Mayor asked for a voice roll call on the motion with Mr. Grummitt, Mr. Griswold, Mr. David, Ms. McCombie, Ms. Hunsaker, and Mr. Robinson voting in favor and Mr. Long voting against.

The Finance Committee recommends moving its meeting date to the second Tuesdays of the month at 8 AM with Mr. Robinson moving, seconded by Mr. Grummitt to accept this Committee recommendation, as presented. The Mayor asked for a voice roll call on the motion with Mr. Grummitt, Mr. Griswold, Mr. David, Ms. McCombie, Ms. Hunsaker, and Mr. Robinson voting in favor and Mr. Long voting against. The Mayor declared the motion passed, carried and said recommendation approved, as presented.

After the conclusion of this report, Mr. Griswold moved, seconded by Mr. Grummitt to accept this Finance Committee report, as presented herein. The Mayor asked for additional discussion on the motion and hearing none asked for a voice roll call on the motion with all members voting in favor. The Mayor declared the motion passed, carried and the Finance Committee report accepted, as presented and discussed.

Water, Sewer/Refuse/Street/Alley Committee The Mayor asked the WSRSA Committee Chairperson Mr. Robinson to present the Committee activities requiring City Council consideration discussed and reviewed at a Committee meeting conducted on November 01, 2011. The Committee recommends the City Council require Mr. Tonkin 404 Bowen Street to permanently disconnect the water line serving 404 Bowen street from 402 Bowen Street constituting a theft of service and establish within the next 30 days a separate water service from the City water main to serve 404 Bowen Street with billing reduced to include services for two separate accounts and including paying the last quarter for 404 Bowen Street with credit allowed in the amount paid of \$112.77 and service to continue hereafter for 402 and also 404 Bowen Street, as separate accounts. After discussion, Mr. Robinson moved, seconded by Mr. Grummitt to approve this Committee recommendation. The Mayor asked for additional discussion on this motion and hearing none asked for called roll call on the motion with Mr. Long, Mr. Grummitt, Mr. Griswold, Mr. David, Ms. McCombie, Ms. Hunsaker, and Mr. Robinson voting in favor. The Mayor declared the motion passed, carried, and approved, as stated.

The Committee recommends denying a request to vacate a portion of Calumet Street to allow the adjacent property owner to conform to the City zoning setback regulations. After discussion, Mr. Robinson moved, seconded by Mr. Grummitt to accept said Committee recommendation, as presented and discussed. The Mayor asked for additional discussion on the motion and hearing none asked for a voice roll call on the motion with all members present voting in favor. The Mayor declared the motion passed, carried, and approved, as written.

The Committee recommends to the City Council approval of affirmative action to cause the closure and removal of the Iris Street Bridge in accordance with the BNSF Railway request. With no discussion Mr. Robinson moved, seconded by Mr. Grummitt, to approve the

Committee recommendation, as presented and discussed. The Mayor moved, seconded by Mr. Robinson to table this item to the next regular meeting of the City Council to allow for public input. After discussion, Mr. Robinson rescinded his motion to table this item to the next meeting of the City Council to allow for public input. After discussion, the Mayor declared the motion passed, carried, and said item tabled to the next regular meeting of the City Council.

The Committee recommends resurfacing Broderick Drive during the 2012 construction season with funding accumulated in accordance with the grain elevator lease and to authorize the PWS to work with the County Highway Department to produce costs for this proposed project. After discussion, Mr. Robinson moved, seconded by Mr. David to approve this action, as stated herein. The Mayor asked for additional discussion on this motion and hearing none, asked for voice roll call on the motion with all members present voting in favor. The Mayor declared the motion passed, carried, and said Committee recommendation approved.

The Committee Recommends the City Council initiate action move the handicapped parking zone located on Firth Street by Ordinance to relate said handicapped zone near the Catholic Church building entrance to accommodate the access/regress to said church. After clarifying discussion, the Mayor declared this action accepted by majority member consensus.

After the conclusion of this Committee report, Mr. Grummitt moved, seconded by Mr. Long to accept this Committee report, as discussed hereinabove.

Hotel/Motel Committee The Mayor asked Committee Member Mr. Grummitt to review the actions and activities of said Committee requiring City Council action, as discussed at the H/M Committee meeting conducted on Wednesday, November 02, 2011. Mr. Grummitt commented on the consultant report, a billboard review and contract agreement, a report from Mr. Heide on the Committee website and reviewed activities attended at a recent river Actions Seminar attended by three Savanna representatives. After discussion, the Mayor asked for consideration of this Committee Report with Mr. Grummitt moving, seconded by Mr. Long to accept said report, as presented. The Mayor asked for a voice roll call on said motion with all City Council members present voting in favor. The Mayor declared the motion passed, carried and said report accepted, as presented.

Personal/Safety Committee The Mayor asked for the Committee Chairperson Mr. David to review the actions and activities of said Committee requiring City Council action, as discussed at the P/S Committee meeting conducted on November 02, 2011. The Committee decided to seek legal advice on a matter related to City employees terminating City employment in good standing by including a minimum a two week notice and asked the City Attorney prepare a draft Ordinance prepared for City Council consideration.

The Committee recommends to the City Council to approve the composition of a proposed Ordinance revising the personnel regulations 1-23-5 to allow a calendar yearend bonus to

all qualified City employees, pursuant to prior Finance Committee ratification. After discussion, the City council accepted this action by member consensus.

The Committee accepted action to volunteer both PWD foreman for NIMS certification in accordance with regulatory provisions.

After discussion, the Mayor asked for consideration of this Committee Report with Ms. Hunsaker moving, seconded by Mr. Grummitt to accept said report, as presented. The Mayor asked for a voice roll call on said motion with all City Council members present voting in favor. The Mayor declared the motion passed, carried and said report accepted, as presented.

Building and Public Property Committee The Mayor asked for the Committee Chairperson Ms. McCombie to review the actions and activities of said Committee requiring City Council action, as discussed at the B&PP Committee meeting conducted on November 08, 2011. The Committee deferred a request for a drug free sign for the Skate Parks area, asked the PWS to respond to Computer Dynamics on acceptable physical connections allowed on the City's water tanks, asked the PWs to respond to Verizon on a related request, reviewed the Ordinance Officer Report, heard a report on a riverfront improvement plan, discussed use of the old City Hall by the Fire Department and proposed leasing options, asked for additional information on a request from Mr. Cliff Leavens (Pike Road) to purchase public property and heard a complaint from Ms. Hunsaker on the use of property at Park and Chicago Avenue. After discussion, the Mayor asked for consideration of this Committee Report with Mr. Grummitt moving, seconded by Mr. Robinson to accept said report, as presented.

WARRANT #7

Invoices Selected for the Month of October, 2011 The Mayor asked for comments, discussion and consideration of said Warrant #7 distributed with the packets totaling \$261,776.59, including \$80,045.27 payroll and \$4,750.00 for Community Funding and Planning Services. After no discussion, Mr. Robinson moved, seconded by Ms. Hunsaker to approve said Finance Committee recommendation and approve said Warrant #7, as stated hereinabove. The Mayor asked for additional comments on the motion and hearing none asked for a called roll call on the motion with Mr. Long, Mr. Grummitt, Mr. Griswold, Mr. David, Ms. McCombie Ms. Hunsaker, and Mr. Robinson voting in favor. The Mayor declared the motion passed, carried, and said warrant approved for payment.

COMMUNICATIONS

Income Survey for CDAP Grant Funds, Community Funding and Planning Services The Mayor referred to a press release distributed with the Council agenda packets and stressed the importance of completing and returning these survey documents to preserve the City's eligibility status to continue to apply for Community Development Assistance Program grant funds. A 75% response rate is needed.

APPOINTMENTS

Planning Commission , Seven Year Term, Expires 11/27/18 The Mayor announced he is still looking for a candidate for a Planning commission appointment.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Financial, Police, Fire, Public Works, for October, 2011 The Mayor referred to said reports distributed with the Council Agenda packets and asked for comments, discussion and consideration of said monthly reports. After discussion, Mr. Robinson moved seconded by Mr. David to accept said reports, as submitted. The Mayor asked for additional discussion on the motion and hearing none asked for a voice roll call on the motion with all members present voting in favor. The Mayor declared the motion passed, carried, and said reports accepted, as presented.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None presented.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance, Adoption of New Building Codes The Mayor asked that a first reading be considered of this proposed Ordinance amending Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 1 of the Savanna Codes adopting and incorporating by reference the most recent editions of the International Building Codes, Residential Code, Existing Building Code, Mechanical Code, and the International Codes, as published by the International Code Council. After discussion, the Mayor asked for consideration of the first reading of said proposed Ordinance with Mr. David moving, seconded by Mr. Robinson to read said proposed Ordinance by title only, and lay over to the next regular meeting of the Council, pursuant to further consideration. The Mayor read said proposed Ordinance and asked for additional discussion on the motion and hearing none asked for a voice roll call on motion with all members present voting in favor. The Mayor declared the motion passed, carried, and approved for second reading, as stated herein.

Walter Shrake The Mayor recognized Mr. Shrake from the audience who enlightened those present with a history of recent occupants of the structure identified as 404 Bowen Street. The council absorbed this information with restraint and no comment.

Mr. Long The Mayor recognized Mr. Long from the Elected Officials table who informed everyone in attendance that the 2011 Haunted Forest event attracted over 2000 thrill seekers and claimed a successful event status.

Mr. Robinson The Mayor recognized Mr. Robinson from the Elected Officials table who asked about the proposed Ordinances distributed in the packet and not acted on. The Mayor responded that said proposed Ordinances were not on the Agenda and will be considered at the next scheduled regular meeting of the City Council.

Mayor Stebbins addressed the city council on concerns of the lack of regulatory procedures to follow in condemning buildings slated for demolition or rehab. The recent discovery of back taxes owed associated with properties condemned only to be confronted with back taxes exceeding \$5000.00, an expense in addition to the added legal fees and costs for removal of the deficient ugly structures and learned resale of these subject properties will not offset the cost to produce a deed and subsequent sale of said properties to recover costs.

The Mayor commented this process to eliminate blighted areas is not a wise use of taxpayer's money. After discussion, the City Attorney accepted half blame for this condition and will compose a checklist to guide city Officials in its goal to reduce blighted areas in the City limits.

Mayor Stebbins announced an Open House is scheduled for the general public to view the City facilities recently rehabbed located at 333 Chicago Avenue. A ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled at 3PM and viewing privileges will be available from Noon until 7PM on said date. The Mayor asked that elected officials volunteer to man the premises from 5Pm to 7PM to allow staff to end their workday.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further agenda items for consideration, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:50:55.

Minutes Composed by Paul Hartman, Savanna City Clerk