

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE SAVANNA CITY COUNCIL, CONDUCTED AT 7:30
P.M. ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2011 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT 333 CHICAGO
AVENUE SAVANNA, ILLINOIS 61074**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Stebbins called the regular Council meeting to order on December 13, 2011 at 7:30 P.M. Notice of the meeting was delivered to all Council members and posted in accordance with the State of Illinois Open Meetings Act.

PUBLIC HEARING

Discuss the Proposed Property Tax Levy Mayor Stebbins called the Public Hearing at 7:32 PM December 13, 2011 in the Council Chambers, 333 Chicago Avenue, Savanna, Illinois. The Mayor asked for a roll call with the following Board Members present: Mayor Stebbins, Bill Robinson, Merle Long, Peg Haffey, Bill Grummitt, Jeff Griswold, Tony McCombie, Lois Hunsaker, and Robbe David, constituting a quorum. Also in attendance were, City Clerk Paul Hartman, City Attorney Phil Jensen, Irv Shrake, and Mr. Miller – News media, Public Works Director – John Lindeman, Police Chief – Mike Moon, City Comptroller Sheryl Sipe, Mr. Steve Haring, Mr. Dan Pepin, and two unnamed individuals. The first order of business is the Levy Ordinance public hearing, Mayor Stebbins asked the City Clerk to read aloud the Notice of Proposed Property Tax Levy for the City of Savanna, and upon completion of said reading the Mayor turned the hearing over to Mr. Robinson. Mr. Robinson reviewed the following information. The purpose of the hearing is to allow any person desiring to appear to present testimony to the taxing district may be heard. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended or abated for 2010 were \$502,293.00. The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2011 are \$552,550.00 representing a 10% increase over the previous year. The increase in part is due to an increase in the annual contribution requirements for the Savanna Police Pension Fund and the Savanna Firefighter Pension Fund, as directed by State of Illinois Department of Insurance. Failure to comply with said directives could lead to the State assuming control of said funds and compel amortizing the unfunded accrued liability ~~over the next~~ by fiscal year 2016. Mr. Robinson asked for any written or verbal testimony for City Council consideration and with Ms. McCombie commenting on local assessments going down and predicted this will occur again in 2012, Mr. Griswold asked for and received the assessed value for Savanna for 2010 and Mr. Robinson referred to a data sheet composed by the Comptroller indicating the City's assessed value from 1991 to present year and concluded his presentation and review. The Mayor asked Council members to respond to any telephone calls received on the levy and hearing none closed the hearing at 7:45 PM.

Hearing minutes composed by Paul **Hartman** City Clerk, Savanna, Illinois

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ROLL CALL

Mayor Stebbins led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Mayor asked for member roll call with Mayor Stebbins, Ms. Haffey, Mr. Long, Ms. McCombie, Mr. David, Mr. Grummitt, Mr. Griswold, Ms. Hunsaker, and Mr. Robinson present, constituting a quorum. Officials Present: City Attorney, City Clerk, City Comptroller, Police Chief, PWS, and in the audience Mr. Mike Miller, Mr. Walter Shrake from the local news media, others present: Steve Haring, Dan Pepin and two others unnamed.

CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA

The Mayor asked for consideration and discussion of the Council Agenda and after discussion, Mr. Grummitt moved, seconded by Mr. Mr. David, 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 NOVEMBER 22, 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 Ms. Haffey moving, seconded by Mr. David, to amend said regular Council minutes by correcting the typo errors under Finance Committee report and under comments Mayor Stebbins. The Mayor asked for supplemental comments or discussion on the motion and hearing none asked for a voice roll call on said motion with all members present voting in

favor. The Mayor declared the motion passed, carried and said minute amendments approved and accepted, as stated herein.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Building and Public Property The Mayor asked the B&PP Committee Chairperson to present the Committee activities requiring City Council consideration discussed and reviewed at a Committee meeting conducted on November 29, 2011. Ms. McCombie reported the Committee considered a request to provide a drug free sign for the Skate Park with the Savanna Park district and concluded it is time to consider transferring the Skate Park to the Park District and the sign acquisition remains an action to be explored, the Committee concluded a request to purchase the parking lot north of the old City Hall may be leased and further action will be initiated upon receipt of a proposed lease (composed by the City Attorney) for this purpose, subject to City Council action consideration, the Committee considered a phased concept plan for development of the area south of the Fire Station and adjacent to the train car, as well as a proposed riverfront enhancement project, concluding to proceed with an initial phase of this proposed development by working with State officials on a concept plan, the Committee heard a presentation from the Fire Chief on the re-use of the old City Council Chambers, concluding to refer additional consideration to the Finance Committee for funding recommendations, the Committee considered composing a guidance worksheet concerning the removal of deficient structures within the City concluding to ask the City Attorney and Building Official to compose such a guidance worksheet for Committee consumption and use, the Committee discussed the forthcoming meetings related to scenic byways, concluding that positive action should be promoted to achieve the aesthetic values of the scenic byways serving the City of Savanna, the Committee heard an update on the selling of used cars on open lots resulting in a conclusion that the city Codes will need to be amended to further regulate unestablished conditions. After the conclusion of this report, Mr. David moved, seconded by Ms. Haffey to accept this report, as presented herein. The Mayor asked for additional discussion on the motion and hearing none called for a voice roll call on the motion with all members present voting in favor. The Mayor declared the motion passed, carried, and said report accepted.

Personnel/Safety Committee The Mayor asked the P&S Committee Chairperson Mr. David to present the Committee activities requiring City Council consideration discussed and reviewed at a Committee meeting conducted on December 05, 2011. Mr. David reported the Committee heard a presentation from the PC requesting consideration of a 12-hour shift review, concluding to recommend approval pending additional funding considerations by the Finance Committee. After the conclusion of this report, Ms Haffey moved, seconded by Ms. Hunsaker to accept this report, as presented. 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 report accepted, as presented.

Hotel/Motel Committee The Mayor asked the H/M Committee Chairperson Ms. Haffey to present the Committee activities requiring City Council consideration discussed and reviewed at a Committee meeting conducted on December 07, 2011. Ms. Haffey reported the Committee considered and recommends approving an expenditure of \$300.00 for Facebook advertising, concluding to defer this to the Finance Committee for funding considerations, the Committee considered and recommend approving a two-year contract with Lamar Companies for a billboard sign on Route 20 for \$14,690.00, concluding to defer this expenditure to the Finance Committee for funding consideration, the Committee heard a request from its consultant for additional mileage funds in support of moving to Freeport, concluding to approve this expenditure for approximately 3 month period, the Committee heard a request from the Savanna Chamber for funding (\$1000.00) a visitor's guide map, concluding to table this request pending additional clarification, the Committee reviewed an invoice from Gary Heide for services rendered concluding to defer this expenditure to the Finance Committee for funding approval for an additional \$25.00 to satisfy this invoice. After the conclusion of this report Mr. Long moved, seconded by Mr. Robinson to accept this 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 present voting in favor. The Mayor declared the motion passed, carried, and accepted, as presented herein.

Finance Committee The Mayor asked the Finance Committee Chairperson Mr. Robinson to present the Committee activities requiring City Council consideration discussed and reviewed at a Committee meeting conducted on December 13, 2011. Mr. Robinson reported the proposed Sales Tax Rebate Plan is continuing forward with additional meetings scheduled to produce a viable plan, the Committee reviewed the Comptrollers accounting reports, concluding to recommend to the City Council to approve Warrant #8, as presented. The Committee reviewed a funding request from the Hotel/Motel Committee for \$300.00 for Facebook advertising and \$14,690.00 for a two year contract with Lamar Companies for renting a billboard sign. After discussion, Mr. Robinson moved, seconded by Ms. Haffey to approve said expenditures, as stated hereinabove. The Mayor asked for additional discussion on the motion and hearing none asked for a called roll call on the motion with Ms. Haffey, Mr. Long, Ms. McCombie, Mr. David, Mr. Grummitt, Mr. Griswold, Ms. Hunsaker, and Mr. Robinson voting for the motion. The Mayor declared the motion passed, carried, and said expenditures authorized for payment.

The Committee considered recommending approval of a 2011 year-end bonus for all full time employees, concluding to recommend a \$175.00 bonus for this purpose. After discussion, Mr. Robinson moved, seconded by Mr. David to approve this recommendation, as discussed. The Mayor asked for additional discussion on the motion and hearing none asked for a called roll call on the motion with Ms. Haffey, Mr. Long, Ms. McCombie, Mr. David, Mr. Grummitt, Mr. Griswold, Ms. Hunsaker, and Mr. Robinson voting in favor. The Mayor declared the motion, passed, carried and said recommendation approved.

The Committee considered recommending approval of a funding request from the Public Works Department to repair a salt storage structure, concluding to recommend to the City Council approving \$2500.00 for this purpose. After discussion, Mr. Robinson moved, seconded by Mr. Grummitt to approve this recommendation, as discussed. The Mayor asked for additional discussion on the motion and hearing none asked for a called roll call on the motion with Ms. Haffey, Mr. Long, Ms. McCombie, Mr. David, Mr. Grummitt, Mr. Griswold, Ms. Hunsaker, and Mr. Robinson voting in favor. The Mayor declared the motion, passed, carried and said recommendation approved.

The Committee considered recommending approval of a credit card and debit card processing system, concluding to recommend a \$150.00 initial fee, plus \$8.00 monthly service fee and also transfer fees. After discussion, the City Council accepted this action by majority consensus, as discussed.

The Committee considered and reviewed a receipt of a check from the Carroll County States Attorney in support of funding the BATF officer. The Mayor accepted said check on behalf of the City Council.

The Committee considered recommending approval of a proposed damper system improvement at the City Hall structure, designed in part to enhance energy savings within the system for \$2800.00. After discussion Mr. Robinson moved, seconded by Ms. Haffey to approve this recommendation, as discussed. The Mayor asked for additional discussion on the motion with Mr. Long and Mr. Griswold asking for additional proof of any energy savings and after more concluding discussion, the Mayor asked for a called roll call on the motion with Ms. Haffey, Ms. McCombie, Mr. David, Mr. Grummitt, Ms. Hunsaker, and Mr. Robinson voting in favor and Mr. Long and Mr. Griswold voting against the motion. The Mayor declared the motion, passed, carried (6 to 2) and said recommendation approved.

The Committee considered recommending approval of placing a Christmas ad in the Savanna Time Journal for \$33.00. After discussion Mr. Robinson moved, seconded by Mr. Grummitt to approve this recommendation, as discussed. The Mayor asked for additional discussion on the motion and hearing none asked for a called roll call on the motion with Ms. Haffey, Mr. Long, Ms. McCombie, Mr. David, Mr. Grummitt, Mr. Griswold, Ms. Hunsaker, and Mr. Robinson voting in favor. The Mayor declared the motion, passed, carried and said recommendation approved.

The Committee considered and tabled consideration of the proposed use of the old city hall Building and also tabled action on the Police Department 12 hour shift consideration.

After the conclusion of this report, the Mayor asked for consideration of said report with Mr. Grummitt moving, seconded by Ms. Hunsaker to accept said report, as presented. The Mayor asked for supplementary discussion 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 report accepted, as submitted.

WARRANT #8

Bills for Month of November 2011 Totaling \$374,147.31 The Mayor asked for discussion and review of Warrant #8, commenting the Finance Committee recommends payment of said warrant. After limited discussion, Ms. Hunsaker moved, seconded by Mr. David to accept said recommendation, as discussed and presented. The Mayor asked for supplementary discussion on the motion and hearing none asked for a called roll call on the motion with Ms. Haffey, Mr. Long, Ms. McCombie, Mr. David, Mr. Griswold, Mr. Grummitt, Ms. Hunsaker, and Mr. Robinson voting in favor. The Mayor declared the motion passed, carried, and approved, as stated herein.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor asked for any communications and referred to correspondence include in the agenda packets from the Illinois Association of Realtors for information purposes only.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Financial, Police, Fire, Public Works for November 2011 the Mayor asked for consideration of said reports distributed with the agenda packets. Mr. Grummitt moved, seconded by David to approve the Financial, Police and Public Works Department reports 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 submitted reports approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ordinance, Amending Title I, Chapter 23, Section 7, Vacation/Compensatory Time, Two Weeks Notice

The Mayor referred to a second reading of said proposed Ordinance document distributed with the last meeting agenda packets. The proposed Ordinance #1987 will amend said section by adding a two-week notice to terminate City employment. After discussion, Ms. Haffey moved, seconded by Mr. Robinson to perform a second reading of said proposed Ordinance by title only and adopt said Ordinance #1987, as written. The Mayor read said Ordinance #1987 by title only and asked for additional discussion on said proposed Ordinance 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 proposed Ordinance #1987 adopted, as stated.

Ordinance, Amending Title 1, Chapter 23, Section 5, Promotion and Salary Adjustments, Year End Bonus

The Mayor referred to a second reading of said proposed Ordinance #1988 distributed with the last meeting agenda packets amending said section by adding a year-end bonus for all full-time City employees, conditioned by previous Finance Committee favorable recommendation, payable in December of each calendar year. After discussion, Ms. Haffey moved, seconded by Mr. Robinson, to perform a second reading of said Ordinance #1988 by title only and adopt said proposed Ordinance #1988, as written. The Mayor read said Ordinance #1988 by title only asked for additional discussion on said proposed Ordinance #1988 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 Ordinance #1988 adopted, as stated.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance, Abatement of Taxes 2004A Bonds

The Mayor referred to a first reading of said proposed Ordinance document distributed with the agenda packets. The proposed Ordinance will abate certain taxes in connection with an Ordinance providing for the issuance of not to exceed \$775,000.00 general obligation tax increment bonds, series 2004A of the City of Savanna, Carroll County, Illinois. After discussion, Mr. Robinson moved, seconded by Mr. David to perform a first reading of said proposed Ordinance by title only and layover said proposed Ordinance to the next regular meeting for final consideration. The Mayor read said proposed Ordinance by title only asked for additional discussion on said proposed Ordinance 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 proposed Ordinance laid over to the next regular meeting, as stated.

Ordinance, Abatement of Taxes 2004B Bonds

The Mayor referred to a first reading of said proposed Ordinance document distributed with the agenda packets. The proposed Ordinance will abate certain taxes in connection with an Ordinance providing for the issuance of not to exceed \$580,000.00 general obligation tax increment bonds, series 2004B of the City of Savanna, Carroll County, Illinois. After discussion, Mr. Robinson moved, seconded by Ms. Haffey to perform a first reading of said proposed Ordinance by title only and layover said proposed Ordinance to the next regular meeting for final consideration. The Mayor read said proposed Ordinance by title only asked for additional discussion on said proposed Ordinance 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 proposed Ordinance laid over to the next regular meeting, as stated.

Ordinance Tax Levy The Mayor referred to a first reading of the annual tax levy Ordinance distributed with the agenda packets. The proposed tax levy Ordinance will levy taxes for all corporate purposes for the City of Savanna, Carroll County, Illinois for the fiscal year commencing on the first day of May A.D. 2011 and ending the thirtieth day of April A.D. 2012. The amount levied for all corporate purposes is \$552,550.00. After discussion, Mr. Robinson moved, seconded by Ms. Haffey to perform a first reading of said proposed Ordinance by title only and layover said proposed Ordinance to the next regular meeting for final consideration. The Mayor read said proposed Ordinance by title only asked for additional discussion on said proposed Ordinance 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 proposed Ordinance laid over to the next regular meeting, as stated.

Mediacom, Franchise Agreement The Mayor referred to a City Attorney document distributed with the Agenda packets and asked the City Attorney to address the City Council concerning the proposed Cable Franchise Ordinance requesting a telephone conference to discuss specific irregularities (gross revenue defined) noted in the franchise agreement. After discussion, the City Council concluded by majority consensus to refer this request to the Contracts and Lease Agreements Committee for consideration.

West Carroll School District 1% Sales Tax Referendum The Mayor addressed the City Council setting forth his views on the proposed referendum. The Mayor is opposed to supporting this referendum since the sales tax funding agreement with Palatine oil will be undermined resulting in a significant revenue lose to the City and therein have a negative impact or substantially eliminate the City's capital improvement possibilities.

Ordinance, Amending Title 9, Chapter 1, Section 41, Handicapped Parking Zone The Mayor commented this proposed document is on the City Attorney's "to do list"

Resolution, Closing Out Fourth Street Resurfacing Project The Mayor commented this proposed document is on the City Attorney's "to do list"

AUDIENCE COMMENTS/COUNCIL MEMBERS COMMENTS

The Mayor asked Dan Pepin (Community Funding & Planning Services) to address the City Council on the survey status regarding the City of Savanna's eligibility to continue to apply for community development assistance program grant funds. Mr. Pepin reported that a 73% survey response had been reached and the required 75% survey response will be met by the end of this week.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Mayor asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session to review probable or imminent litigation. Mr. Griswold moved, seconded by Mr. Robinson to enter into executive session in accordance with 5ILCS 120/2 (c) (11) Probable or Imminent Litigation. The Mayor asked for a voice roll call on said motion with members present voting in favor. The Mayor declared a 5-minute recess to clear the Council Chambers at 8:55PM. The City Council entered into executive session at 9:07 PM.

The Mayor reconvened the regular council meeting at 9:43 PM. The Mayor asked for any considerations resulting from the executive session with Ms. Haffey making a motion, seconded by Mr. Griswold to authorize the City Attorney to take legal action in support of filing a motion to dismiss the multi-count suit by J.B Sullivan against the City, including striking the provisions on damages and further to support a response to the news articles on the suit by the Mayor, as composed at the 12/13/11 City Council meeting. After limited discussion, the Mayor asked for a voice roll call on said motion with all members present voting in favor. The Mayor declared the motion passed, carried and said action approved, as stated herein.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further agenda items for consideration, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:47:35 PM.

Minutes Composed by Paul Hartman, Savanna City Clerk