

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF THE
SAVANNA CITY COUNCIL IN THE CITY OF SAVANNA, CARROLL COUNTY,
ILLINOIS, ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2019 AT 7:30 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBERS AT 333 CHICAGO AVENUE, SAVANNA, ILLINOIS 61074**

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Chris Lain called the meeting to order on the said date at 7:30 P.M. Notice of the meeting was delivered to all Council members and posted at 333 Chicago Avenue, Savanna, Illinois in accordance with the State of Illinois Open Meetings Act.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Chris Lain led the Council in the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL / ESTABLISH QUORUM:

Mayor Chris Lain declared the establishment of a quorum with members in attendance Mayor Chris Lain, Nick Law, Pat Sanchez, Roger Husband, Jocelyn Boyd, Jeff Griswold, Deb Long, and Jim Friedenbach. Christine Lee was absent. Non-members in attendance were News Media: Michael Miller, Mike Nester and Colton Ostrum, Linda Grissinger, Marne LaShelle, Kathleen Folsom-Johnson, Dave Johnson, Sara Purdom, Kristen Armstrong, Cassie Wurster, John LeComte, Jeanine Mills, Shanna Grossman, Carene and Jacob Helms, Sheri Castro, Brienna Junk, Ashley Engaldo, Juliene McCormick, Jared Fluhr-MSA, Jill Pepin-CFPS, Comptroller/Treasurer Brittany Hatteberg, Public Works Superintendent John Lindeman, City Attorney Phil Jensen, and City Clerk Rhonda Weiss. Fire Chief Shawn Picolotti & Police Chief Kevin Dimmick arrived after an emergency at 8:15 P.M.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor Chris Lain requested to add a letter of Resignation from Christine Lee to the Agenda under New Business. **Pat Sanchez motioned to approve the agenda with the addition, seconded by Jocelyn Boyd.** All voting in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Consideration of the Minutes of the August 27, 2019 Regular Meeting: After review, **Roger Husband motioned to approve the August 27, 2019 Regular Minutes, seconded by Pat Sanchez.** All voting in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Hotel/Motel Committee, 09/04/19: Jim Friedenbach reported on the meeting. Diane Bausman shared a website update, informing the committee that there was 12,627 unique visits to the website. Brienna Junk shared her marketing agenda, Facebook has reached 40,000 with 485 new page likes and numerous video views. A video for the fall season will be created utilizing the State Park, Bike Trail, and other scenery. A cabin giveaway/getaway was also done for a lucky winner to stay at the Rustic River Cabins which just opened. **Pat Sanchez motioned to approve the Hotel/Motel Committee Report, seconded by Jocelyn Boyd.** All voting in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Finance Committee, 09/10/19: Mayor Chris Lain reported on the meeting. The committee reviewed the regular reports as well as Warrant #5 and recommends payment in the amount of \$1,003,643.28. Jill Pepin with Community Funding and Planning was present to discuss the funding status summary for the Wacker Road Project. She discussed the Loan Disbursement #3 and requesting IEPA Loan Funds for the following: IEPA Sewer Loan Funds 17-5546 for Invoice #7B for construction observation from MSA for \$1,674.80. IEPA Water Loan Funds 17-5547 for Invoice #7A for construction observation from MSA for \$14,852.58 and Pay Application #3 to Fischer Excavating for \$73,640.93. Roadway Funds for Invoice #7C for construction observation from MSA for \$24,337.57 and Pay Application #3 to Fischer Excavating for \$358,766.42. MSA, Invoice #7C is on Warrant #5 because it is being paid with City funds. **Pat Sanchez motioned to approve the Loan Disbursement #3 for IEPA Loan #17-5546 & #17-5547 including**

Fischer Pay Application #3 and MSA Invoices 7A, 7B, & 7C, seconded by Roger Husband. All voting in favor, none opposed. Motion passed. An agreement for Sludge Land Application Permit, McMahon Associates, Inc. was presented. Public Works Superintendent John Lindeman briefly explained this was an overlooked unbudgeted expense for a 5-year program to spread the Sewer Treatment Plant sludge on local farm fields instead of paying to dispose at a landfill, it would be expensed from Sewer Fund. **Pat Sanchez motioned to approve the payment to McMahon Associates, Inc. not to exceed \$2,000, seconded by Roger Husband.** Roll Call Vote Aye: Jocelyn Boyd, Jeff Griswold, Pat Sanchez, Nick Law, Deb Long, Roger Husband, and Jim Friedenbach. Nay: None. Motion passed. Roger Husband would like the Council to see how the gas tax increase by the state is affecting local gas stations for the next meeting. Mayor Chris Lain will look into it. **Pat Sanchez motioned to approve the Finance Committee report, seconded by Jocelyn Boyd.** All voting in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

WARRANT #5: Bills for the Month of August Totaling \$1,003,643.28: A portion of the invoices are for the Wacker Road project and utilizing loan money. After review and some discussion, **Pat Sanchez motioned to approve Warrant #5 totaling \$1,003,643.28, seconded by Jocelyn Boyd.** Roll Call Vote Aye: Pat Sanchez, Nick Law, Deb Long, Roger Husband, Jim Friedenbach, Jocelyn Boyd, and Jeff Griswold. Nay: None. Motion passed.

MONTHLY REPORTS: Financial, Police, Fire and Public Works for August 2019: After a brief review and noting the Public Works report was not available, **Roger husband motioned to approve the Financial, Police, and Fire monthly reports for August 2019, seconded by Pat Sanchez.** All voting in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Wacker Road Project Update and Associated Action Items: Jared Fluhr with MSA updated the Council on progress on the Wacker Road Project. Most of the storm sewer installation is complete and sanitary sewer begins this week. Sidewalk & driveways will also begin. Subgrade improvements due to inconsistent subgrade were presented in four options. MSA & Fischer is recommending Option #2 as a mid-ground option with the clay pockets being found at a price of \$98,069.60, using Geotech fabric and an additional 6" over-excavation, 8" breaker run with 4" CA10. Jared is asking for direction from the Council on how to proceed. The General Contractor is optimistic on the November substantial completion date for the roadway currently. **Roger Husband motioned to approve the Change Order #3 option #2 not to exceed \$98,069.60 but only as needed, seconded by Jeff Griswold.** Roll Call voting Aye: Deb Long, Roger Husband, Jim Friedenbach, Jocelyn Boyd, Jeff Griswold, and Nick Law. Nay: Pat Sanchez. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Christine Lee Letter of Resignation: Mayor Chris Lain read Christine Lee's resignation letter and is looking at appointing a replacement. **Jocelyn Boyd motioned to accept her resignation, seconded by Jeff Griswold.** All voting in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Planning & Zoning Board Minutes, 08/28/19: Planning & Zoning Board, Finding of Fact, Conditional Use Permit by Dennis Newman, Big Elm Trailer Park: Public Works Superintendent John Lindeman updated the Council on the meeting. The Big Elm Trailer Park has no record of a conditional use permit ever being issued. The Planning & Zoning Board recommends approval based on the submitted site plan and Finding of Fact. It is a pre-existing nonconforming use since approximately 1958 but needs to be clarified in City ordinances since he is looking to sell the business. **Roger Husband motioned to approve the Finding of Facts, seconded by Pat Sanchez.** All voting in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Ordinance, Approving Conditional Use Permit to Allow a Mobile Home Park in the M, Manufacturing District, Request by Dennis Newman, Big Elm Trailer Park: **Pat Sanchez motioned to approve and place on first reading the conditional Use Permit of Big Elm Trailer Park, seconded Nick Law.** Roll Call Vote Aye: Jocelyn Boyd, Jeff Griswold, Pat Sanchez, Nick Law, Deb Long, Roger Husband, and Jim Friedenbach. Nay: None. Motion passed.

Ordinance, Approving Zoning Text Amendment(s) to Regulate the Location and Operation of Adult-Use Cannabis Business Establishments: After a brief discussion, **Jeff Griswold** motioned to table the **Zoning Text Amendment until after the Mayor's informational meeting about the state bill on September 24th, 2019, seconded by Jim Friedenbach.** Roll Call Vote Aye: Jim Friedenbach and Jeff Griswold. Nay: Pat Sanchez, Nick Law, Deb Long, Roger Husband, and Jocelyn Boyd. Motion failed. Pat Sanchez reiterated the state has already passed the bill; this ordinance would regulate where these businesses could establish within the city. **Jocelyn Boyd** motioned to approve and place on first reading the **Zoning Text Amendment(s) to Regulate the Location and Operation of Adult-Use Cannabis Business Establishments, seconded by Roger Husband.** Roll Call Vote Aye: Deb Long, Roger Husband, Jim Friedenbach, Jocelyn Boyd, Pat Sanchez, and Nick Law. Nay: Jeff Griswold. Motion passed.

CITIZENS, COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Sara DeSpain Purdom addressed the council regarding the passage of the zoning text amendment. She has spoken to the City of Fulton Administrator regarding crime within Fulton with the dispensary located in town. They have found it has not increased due to the dispensary however meth arrests and money laundering has increased. She does not believe in the gateway drug excuse due to the limited nature of the items for sale and the increase in revenue is an advantage to the town.

Sheri Castro also addressed the Council regarding a town she has visited in Colorado that was in the same condition as Savanna. Since legalization, the town has distinctly improved the infrastructure with the tax revenue created. She will also provide her contact in Colorado's phone number to talk to any local citizens interested in her view. As a member of the Medical Marijuana Program, she believes this new program will help eliminate the heavy concentration of dispensaries in the Chicago area and more evenly distribute across the state.

Jacob Helms has read the entire bill passed by the State of Illinois and offered to answer any questions the Council might have. He believes this bill has been structured to minimize any problems or loopholes in the future and it is heavily structured. This is also much more regulated than alcohol distribution in the state. There are plenty of secondary steps included in the bill including the number of people needed to be hired and mentoring other businesses in town. Nick Law asked if Jacob knew where the area is staked out for the 3 dispensaries in Northwest Illinois, Jacob stated the area is not very clearly defined but starts close to Rockford.

Brienna Junk also looked at the tourism standpoint. More people will visit, stay, and shop in Savanna from multiple states since adult use cannabis is legal in the state. We are in a great location with being on the river and having direct access to Iowa with the bridge north of town.

Ashley Engaldo also mentioned the unique location of Savanna being a border town and close to Iowa, Wisconsin, and Minnesota is a draw to bring in people and will have a ripple effect in the community.

Mayor Chris Lain has spoken to a number of downtown businesses and has not received any negative feedback, but notes we are having problems getting visitors to Savanna in the winter months. He has also spoken with the Fulton Administrator and Mayor with no problems brought up.

Fire Chief Shawn Picolotti stated the new concrete is finished in front of the Fire Department.

Police Chief Kevin Dimmick does not foresee any more problems with the legalization of cannabis usage compared to alcohol being legal. Michigan is working on a saliva test for determining influence of cannabis usage.

ADJOURNMENT:

With nothing further, **Mayor Chris Lain made a motion to adjourn at 8:54 P.M.**

Minutes composed by Rhonda Weiss, City Clerk.