

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF THE SAVANNA CITY COUNCIL IN THE CITY OF SAVANNA, CARROLL COUNTY, ILLINOIS, ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M. VIA THE WEB APPLICATION ZOOM

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Chris Lain called the meeting to order on the said date at 7:01 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, Pat Sanchez, Jocelyn Boyd, Jeff Griswold, Sara Purdom, Jim Friedenbach, and Roger Husband. Nick Law and Deb Long were absent. Non-members in attendance Police Chief Jeff Doran, Comptroller/Treasurer Brittany Hatteberg, Fire Chief Scott Wolfe, Public Works Superintendent John Lindeman, City Attorney Phil Jensen, Jeanne Byer-Spraetz, Stephanie East, Hotel/Motel Consultant Brienna Junk, Betsy Kinder, Bret Cox and Hakeem Mahdi of Access Systems, News Media: Mike Nester, and City Clerk Rhonda Weiss.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

After review, **Pat Sanchez motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Jocelyn Boyd.** All voting in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Consideration of the Minutes of the January 26, 2021 Regular Meeting: After a brief review, **Jocelyn Boyd motioned to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from January 26, 2021, seconded by Sara Purdom.** All voting in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

COMMUNICATIONS: Hotel/Motel Marketing Presentation: Hotel/Motel Consultant Brienna Junk presented information regarding the Explore Savanna website and Facebook page since its inception in 2019. Beginning in 2019, the page had about 4,000 followers and is currently at 14,600. Comparing that to Dubuque, with a staff of 5 they have 7,200 followers, Le Claire, Iowa, has 10,500 followers. Savanna averages 30,000-40,000 visitors on the page per month in the offseason, with 80,000 during peak season. This drives our economy particularly during this pandemic, with a sales tax increase from August/September 2019 to August/September 2020 of 11-15%. Savanna was also named #4 Best Small Town for Adventure by USA Today. Highland Community College also used the Explore Savanna website as an example of successful tourism marketing in a leadership class. Enjoy Illinois had never used Savanna in any marketing campaigns but now features blogs, posts, and full-page spreads promoting Savanna. The various videos continue to be viewed regularly. Most of the outside marketing features are at no cost to the city. WGN has even featured us as a getaway during the pandemic. Jeff Griswold asked why there is little coordination between the county and the city. Brienna stated she had in the past but not since the pandemic. Mayor Chris Lain also clarified we did joint advertise when they asked, but our marketing has established a particular branding we paid for and want to maintain. She also does all design and videos herself, and there is no outside firm helping. Roger Husband asked that the website be linked to the City website for more exposure. Augustana handles that website and Mayor Chris Lain will investigate getting it linked and possibly getting Brienna to take over the website.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Hotel/Motel Committee 02-03-21: Sara Purdom reported on the meeting. She stated the Chamber is looking at Friday Night Bike Nights and First Fridays starting up again to help bring up the hotel/motel tax revenue. There are also investors looking at opening other bnb's in town to add additional revenue. After further review, **Pat Sanchez motioned to approve the Hotel Motel Report, seconded by Jocelyn Boyd.** All voting in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Finance Committee 02-09-21: Pat Sanchez briefly reviewed the meeting held earlier. The accounts were reviewed and approved. The Budget FY 2020/2021 should be 25% still available, with the City overall at 32.4% available, which puts us in a better position to make it thru the year.

Request for Funds, IT & Network: Public Works Superintendent John Lindeman and Comptroller/Treasurer Brittany Hatteberg ask for the release of budgeted funds for the purchase and maintenance of IT & Server Network for the City. The Finance Committee approved the release of Funds for the contract to Access Systems at a cost not to exceed \$2,600 per month from Civic Fund 54 thru the end of Budget Year 2020/2021. Budget discussion is starting, therefore the committee will determine where the money will come from for years to follow. **Pat Sanchez motioned to approve the Request for Funds, IT & Network from Civic Fund 54 for \$18,000, Water Fund for \$6,000, and Sewer Fund for \$6,000 for a total of \$30,000, seconded by Sara Purdom.** All voting in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Marketing Consultant Service Agreement: The Committee recommended the Marketing Consultants Agreement approval at the same rate of \$30 per hour not to exceed 25 hours per week and 5 hours per month for meetings. The only change from last year to the upcoming year would be the dates of the contract. After further review, **Pat Sanchez motioned to approve the Marketing Consultant Service Agreement, seconded by Sara Purdom.** Roll Call Vote Aye: Pat Sanchez, Roger Husband, Jim Friedenbach, Sara Purdom, Jocelyn Boyd, and Jeff Griswold. Nay: None. Motion passed.

Sara Purdom motioned to approve the report, seconded by Roger Husband. All voting in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Warrant #10: Bills for the Month of January Totaling \$244,186.86: After a brief review, **Pat Sanchez motioned to approve Warrant #10 for \$244,186.86, seconded by Jocelyn Boyd.** Roll Call Vote Aye: Roger Husband, Jim Friedenbach, Sara Purdom, Jocelyn Boyd, Jeff Griswold, and Pat Sanchez. Nay: None. Motion passed.

Monthly Reports: Financial, Police, Fire, and Public Works for January 2021: After a brief review, **Roger Husband motioned to approve the Monthly Reports, seconded by Pat Sanchez.** All voting in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Project Update, MSA: A report was emailed updating the Council earlier in the day.

NEW BUSINESS:

Paving at the Veteran's Memorial: Police Chief Jeff Doran is requesting the Council approve the VFW pay for paving the parking lot and driveway at the Veteran's Memorial. **Jeff Griswold motioned to approve the Paving at the Veteran's Memorial, seconded by Roger Husband.** All voting in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Approve Agreement for IT, Access Systems: Hakeem Mahdi and Bret Cox addressed the Council on the new IT System, briefly explaining how the computer system's security will be affected. After a brief review, **Pat Sanchez motioned to approve the agreement not to exceed \$2,600 per month until the end of FY 2020/2021 from Civic Fund 54, seconded by Jeff Griswold.** Roll Call Vote Aye: Jim Friedenbach, Sara Purdom, Jocelyn Boyd, Jeff Griswold, Pat Sanchez, and Roger Husband. Nay: none. Motion passed.

CITIZENS, COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Jim Friedenbach thanked the Public Works Department for the job of plowing in his ward with the hills. Pat Sanchez thanked Brienna Junk for all the works she puts in promoting Savanna.

ADJOURNMENT:

With nothing further, **Mayor Chris Lain made a motion to adjourn at 8:52 P.M.**

Minutes composed by Rhonda Weiss, City Clerk.