

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF THE
SAVANNA CITY COUNCIL IN THE CITY OF SAVANNA, CARROLL COUNTY,
ILLINOIS, ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2018 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 said date at 7:37 PM. 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 establishment of a quorum with members in attendance Mayor Chris Lain, Chris James, Jeff Griswold, Christine Lee, Samantha Ritchie, Pat Sanchez, Roger Husband and Jim Friedenbach. Absent was Sara DeSpain Purdom. Non-members in attendance were News Media: Michael Miller and Colton Ostrum, Police Chief Kevin Dimmick, Fire Chief Shawn Picolotti, Comptroller/Treasurer Sheryl Sipe, Public Works Superintendent John Lindeman, City Attorney Phil Jensen, and City Clerk Rhonda Weiss. Citizens in attendance was Linda Grissing and Craig LaShelle.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor Chris Lain requested to add Mayor Pro-tem under appointments. **Christine Lee motioned to approve the October 9th, 2018 agenda with the addition of the Mayor Pro-Tem appointment, seconded by Pat Sanchez**, All voting in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Consideration of the Minutes of the September 25, 2018, Regular Meeting: Mayor Chris Lain asked for a motion to approve the minutes from September 25, 2018. **Pat Sanchez made a motion to approve the September 25, 2018 minutes as presented, seconded by Christine Lee**. All in favor, none opposed, motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Hotel/Motel Committee 10-03-18: Chairman Samantha Ritchie reported in the month of September the website reached 42,500 people and 350 new likes, with Facebook generating the most activity. Explore Savanna reached 18,000 people. The winner of the Bridgefest Giveaway was drawn and given their choice of a place to stay and dinner as well as Havencrest tour tickets. These promotions are part of the 2018/2019 budget in the Hotel/Motel Tax Fund. The following invoices were reviewed and approved for payment: Brienna Junk in the amount of \$1,560 for September consulting hours, Savanna Inn and Suites in the amount of \$286.38 for 2 rooms for the Tourism Development Group, and Chris Lain in the amount of \$130.03 for dinner for the Tourism Development Group. The Committee is discussing and reviewing application examples of other communities Festival Reimbursement requirements. The Committee is looking to possibly include this type of reimbursement into next year's budget. Christine Lee asked if a new Chamber Director had been hired. Mayor Chris Lain reported a few applicants are set up for interviews, but no one has been hired as of yet. **Christine Lee motioned to approve the October 3rd 2018 Hotel/Motel Committee Report, second by Chris James**. All voting in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Finance Committee Meeting 10-9-18: Chairman Christine Lee indicated all of the regular monthly reports were reviewed and approved. The Committee reviewed and recommended payment of Warrant #6 in the amount of \$223,062.45. The Committee recommended approval of a request to release a water, sewer and refuse lien for 842 Chicago Avenue and write-off the bill in the amount of \$754.94. This home has been on the City's demolition watch list, but had been purchased with the intent to fix it up. That has not happened and a neighbor is now looking to purchase this property from the current owner and tear it down. The neighbor will apply for the \$2500 from the Partial Reimbursement of Demolition Expenses Program. The Committee recommended the neighbor satisfy the lien and after demolition, the City will reimburse them the \$754.94 along with the \$2500 from the demolition program. **Christine Lee motioned to approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee, seconded by Samantha Ritchie**. All voting in favor, none opposed. Motion passed. City Attorney Phil Jensen felt this could be accomplished through a recapture agreement. **Pat Sanchez motioned to approve the Finance Committee Report, seconded by Roger Husband**. All voting in favor, none opposed. Motion passed

WARRANT #6:

Bills for the Month of September 2018-Totaling \$223,062.45: After review, **Samantha Ritchie**

motioned to approve payment of Warrant #6 in the amount of \$223,062.45, seconded by Chris James. Roll Call Vote Aye: Samantha Ritchie, Jeff Griswold, Pat Sanchez, Chris James, Roger Husband, Jim Friedenbach and Christine Lee. Nay: None. Motion passed.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Letter of Resignation, Sara DeSpain Purdom: Mayor Chris Lain read a letter from Sara DeSpain Purdom resigning from the City Council due to her moving from the Ward she was elected to represent. Christine Lee asked if it is possible to change from a Ward only system to a Ward and Councilmen at-large system. Phil Jensen responded it is possible but believes it needs to go to referendum first.

APPOINTMENTS:

Ordinance/Public Relations Committee, Replacement: Mayor Chris Lain tabled pending an interested Councilman to fill the opening.

Personnel Committee, Replacement: Mayor Chris Lain recommended Pat Sanchez to replace Sara DeSpain Purdom. **Christine Lee motioned to approve the appointment of Pat Sanchez to the Personnel Committee, seconded by Samantha Ritchie.** All voting in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

(Addition to Agenda) Mayor Pro-tem, Replacement: Mayor Chris Lain recommended Pat Sanchez to fill the position due to the resignation of Sara DeSpain Purdom. **Samantha Ritchie motioned to approve the appointment of Pat Sanchez to the Mayor Pro-tem position, seconded by Chris James.** All voting in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

MONTHLY REPORTS:

Financial, Police, Fire, Public Works for September 2018: The Public Works report was not available but the Superintendent assured the Council it would be available for review at the next meeting. After review of the Financial, Police and Fire reports **Pat Sanchez motioned to approve the three September monthly reports, seconded by Christine Lee.** All voting in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Hiring of Police Officer: Mayor Lain tabled until the next meeting.

Ordinance, Cable Television Franchise Fees- Mediacom: City Attorney Phil Jensen explained this is a new State Ordinance for bargaining of franchise fees. Currently each City bargains alone and this will create more bargaining power as the State will be doing it from a stronger position. This doesn't change what is currently in force or preclude anyone else from entering into competition in the area. This Ordinance will be good for 10 years. Mediacom chose to enter into the State Ordinance Legislation. **Christine Lee motioned to read by title only, waive the second reading and approve Ordinance #2234 - Cable Television Franchise Fees-Mediacom, seconded by Roger Husband.** Roll Call Vote Aye: Pat Sanchez, Chris James, Roger Husband, Jim Friedenbach, Christine Lee, Samantha Ritchie and Jeff Griswold. Nay: None. Motion passed.

Planning & Zoning Board Minutes, 10-2-18: Superintendent of Public Works John Lindeman reviewed the minutes and referred to the following Finding of Facts and Ordinances.

Planning & Zoning Board, Finding of Fact, Variation Request by Edward McColley, 213 Rosedale Ave. from Section 10-2-8(F): The application from Edward McColley was reviewed and testimony heard requesting the variation from the zoning regulations to allow an accessory structure to have a footprint larger than the ground floor area of the principal structure. There were no objectors and the Board found that the variation if granted would not be contrary to the general health, safety and welfare of the people of the City. Therefore, recommended to allow the proposed accessory structure to be 210 square-feet larger in area than the ground floor area of the principal structure.

Ordinance, Authorizing Variation from City Code Title 10-2-8(F) To Allow an Accessory Structure to Have a Footprint Larger than the Ground Floor Area of the Principal Structure-Edward McColley: The finding of facts presented by the Planning & Zoning Board recommended approval of this variation. **Chris James motioned to read by title only, waive the second reading and approve Ordinance #2235, seconded by Christine Lee.** Roll Call Vote Aye: Chris James, Roger Husband, Jim Friedenbach, Christine Lee, Samantha Ritchie, Jeff Griswold and Pat Sanchez. Nay: None. Motion passed.

Planning and Zoning Board, Finding of Fact, Variation Request by Edward McColley, 213 Rosedale Ave. from Section 10-4-3(G)2: The application from Edward McColley was reviewed and testimony heard requesting the variation from the zoning regulations to allow an accessory structure to have a side yard setback of 1 foot instead of the required 6 feet. There were no objectors and the Board found that the variation if granted would not be contrary to the general health, safety and welfare of the people of the City. Therefore, recommended to allow the proposed accessor structure to be built 1 foot from the side lot line instead of the required 6 feet.

Ordinance, Authorizing Variation from City Code Title 10-4-3(G)2 To Allow an Accessory Structure to Have a Side Yard Setback of 1 Foot Instead of the Required 6 Feet-Edward McColley: The finding of facts presented by the Planning & Zoning Board recommended approval of this variation. **Chris James motioned to read by title only, waive the second reading and approve Ordinance #2236, seconded by Pat Sanchez.** Roll Call Vote Aye: Jim Friedenbach, Christine Lee, Samantha Ritchie, Jeff Griswold, Pat Sanchez, Chris James and Roger Husband. Nay: None. Motion passed.

Planning and Zoning Board, Finding of Fact, Variation Request by Randy Bonjour, NW Corner of Pike Road & Iris Street from Section 10-2-8(B): The application from Randy Bonjour was reviewed, but no testimony heard or evidence provided in support of this request since the petitioner was not present. Therefore, recommended that the Variation be denied to allow the proposed accessory structure to be constructed without first establishing the primary structure on the property.

Ordinance, Authorizing Variation from City Code Title 10-2-8(B) to Allow an Accessory Structure to be Established Prior to the Establishment of a Principal Structure for Vacant Property- Randy Bonjour. The finding of facts presented by the Planning & Zoning Board recommended that the Variation be denied. This does not preclude Mr. Bonjour from reapplying and providing the Planning and Zoning Board with the proper evidence. **Christine Lee motioned to follow the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Board and deny the Variation request, seconded by Roger Husband.** Roll Call Vote Aye: Samantha Ritchie, Jeff Griswold, Pat Sanchez, Chris James, Roger Husband, Jim Friedenbach and Christine Lee. Nay: None. Motion passed.

CITIZENS, COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Linda Grissinger stated she had a person from Cedar Rapids ask for directions to Havencrest Castle and thought it's wonderful that Alan St George has opened his home for tours again.

Craig LaShelle asked if the camera had been used to investigate the ongoing drainage problem behind his house yet. John Lindeman stated he had not because of the fee involved. The Council asked John Lindeman to schedule that appointment to see what can be done to resolve the issue.

Samantha Ritchie reminded everyone to attend Bridgefest this coming Saturday on October 13th. There will be a mobile retail shop and pottery studio, as well as food trucks, music, and a Car Show.

Shawn Picolotti reported 425 people were served at the Fish Fry event this past Saturday even with all the rain.

Christine Lee asked that Short Street be addressed. It has deep ravines and is very difficult to navigate. A nice home is for sale and has lost sales due to the condition of the road. She would also like the weeds on upper 4th Street be removed. The weeds are very high and no citizen would be allowed to have property in this condition so the City shouldn't either. She also informed the Council that the 2020 Census is coming up and each community loses approximately \$1800 per person for each form that is not filled out and returned.

Jim Friedenbach also concurred with Christine Lee that Short Street is in terrible shape and needs repair and he also would like the weeds addressed on 4th Street.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Minutes composed by Rhonda Weiss, City Clerk.