

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF THE
SAVANNA CITY COUNCIL IN THE CITY OF SAVANNA, CARROLL COUNTY,
ILLINOIS, ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 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 said date at 7:32 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, Chris James, Jeff Griswold, Christine Lee, Samantha Ritchie, Pat Sanchez, Roger Husband, and Jim Friedenbach. Non-members in attendance were News Media: Michael Miller, Mike Nester and Colton Ostrum, Nick Law, Linda Grissinger, Police Chief Kevin Dimmick, Fire Chief Shawn Picolotti, Comptroller/Treasurer Sheryl Sipe, City Attorney Phil Jensen, and City Clerk Rhonda Weiss.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor Chris Lain asked for a motion to approve the agenda. **Christine Lee motioned to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Pat Sanchez.** All voting in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Consideration of the Minutes of the February 12, 2019, Regular Meeting: After a brief review, Pat Sanchez motioned to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Roger Husband. All voting in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Building & Public Property/Health & Safety 2-20-19: Chairman Jim Friedenbach reported the committee discussed the opportunity to **Purchase Real Estate Property** behind City Hall at 322 Bowen Street. The City received an auction notice through the Carroll County Sherriff's Department on March 5, 2019. They discussed the possibility of purchasing the property for additional parking as well as a possible garage for the police vehicles. If the City were to bid \$10,000 for the property, and then an additional \$10,000 each for demolition and paving, the total cost could be around \$30,000. The Committee could not make a recommendation for or against purchasing the property, but decided to bring it to full Council for consideration. Christine Lee questioned if the vacant lot on Chicago Avenue adjoining the current parking lot

might not be a better choice. The Council concurred the Committee should investigate that possibility first. The Committee also reviewed the possibility of selling Municipal Real Estate Property. Through the FEMA grant and the City's enforcement of the unsafe building statutes, Savannah now owns approximately 16 vacant lots. Committee members will continue to work on the best way to move forward before bringing a recommendation to the Council. **Pat Sanchez motioned to approve the Committee report, seconded by Samantha Ritchie.** All voting in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Finance Committee Meeting 2-26-19:

Chairman Christine Lee reported the meeting held earlier in the evening was primarily to continue working on the annual budget for Fiscal Year 2019/2020. The next scheduled meeting is March 5th, 2019 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm and then the regular finance meeting on March 12th, 2019. The Committee discussed an engineer agreement with MSA to close-out the City Landfill for \$13,300. Once finalized the City will no longer be required to do well testing. This project is budgeted for \$25,000 from the Refuse Depreciation Fund #22. The Committee recommended approval of the engineer agreement with MSA to close the Landfill. **Pat Sanchez motioned to approve the Finance Committee report, seconded by Samantha Ritchie.** All voting in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

COMMUNICATIONS:

None to Report

APPOINTMENTS:

Alderman Appointment: Alderman Ward III, Nicholas S. Law: Mayor Chris Lain recommended the appointment of Nicholas Law to the open seat for Ward III due to the resignation of Sarah DeSpain Purdom. Nicholas Law is running unopposed for the seat in the April 2019 election. **Christine Lee motioned to approve the Mayor's recommendation to appoint Nicholas S. Law to the position of Alderman Ward III, seconded by Pat Sanchez.** All voting in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Committee Appointments: Finance Committee, Jim Friedenbach replacing Chris James: Mayor Chris Lain recommended the appointment of Jim Friedenbach to replace Chris James who is not running for his Alderman seat in the April election. **Pat Sanchez motioned to approve the Mayor's recommendation to appoint Jim Friedenbach to the Finance Committee to replace Chris James, seconded by Jeff Griswold.** All voting in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Water/ Sewer/Refuse/Street & Alley Committee, Nicholas S. Law: Mayor Chris Lain recommended appointing Nicholas Law as an additional member to this Committee.

Ordinance/Public Relations Committee, Nicholas S. Law: Mayor Chris Lain recommended appointing Nicholas Law as an additional member to this Committee. **Christine Lee motioned to approve the Mayor's recommendation to appoint Nicholas Law to both the Water/Sewer/Refuse/Street & Alley Committee and the Ordinance/Public Relations**

Committee, seconded by Samantha Ritchie. All voting in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None for Review.

NEW BUSINESS:

Engineer Agreement for Landfill Closure: Christine Lee reminded the Council members that the Finance Committee recommended approval of the budgeted engineering agreement with MSA for \$13,300. **Christine Lee motioned to approve the engineering agreement with MSA Professional Services for \$13,300 for the Landfill Closure, seconded by Pat Sanchez.** All voting in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

CITIZENS, COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Linda Grissinger pointed out that T & L Auto is encroaching on the corner making turning west on Chicago Avenue difficult. She also wanted it noted some of the cars parked on the street haven't moved in a considerable amount of time due to flat tires. Chief Kevin Dimmick will look into this Ordinance violation. There is also a boat filled with junk on South Sixth Street that should be addressed. Fire Chief Picolotti pointed out there is a State Ordinance stating all vehicles have to be on paved ground, not grass or gravel. Chief Dimmick will also look into that.

Roger Husband stated he received complaints about businesses and residences not clearing sidewalk with all the snow & ice recently. City Attorney Phil Jensen stated the City has an Ordinance stating snow/ice needs to be clear within 2 hours of daylight after the snowfall has stopped. Chris James pointed out a news report stating homeowners who shovel can be sued but not if they don't make an attempt to clear sidewalks. City Attorney Phil Jensen said that is true, unless a City Ordinance supersedes the common law. Savanna does have that Ordinance.

Chris James stated the City needs to purchase a snow blower to clear the sidewalks on the Viaduct Bridge.

Jim Friedenbach thanked the Mayor for his Committee appointment and thanked Christine Lee for running a good Finance Committee meeting.

Christine Lee thanked Pat Sanchez for running a great Council Meeting on February 12th. She also has a neighbor whose house was sold and the contents were all dumped into the yard and are now frozen in place. She would like the City to obtain the new owner's name and write a letter requesting clean up after it thaws. She also complimented the Public Works on maintaining the hills during this snowy/icy winter even though she slid for the first time.

Pat Sanchez Asked about the status of the wall on Chicago Ave. Christine Lee responded that Tony McCombie's office has forwarded a letter to the Illinois IDOT legal department requesting clarification on why this is the City's problem. City Attorney Phil Jensen has looked at it and feels it is the State's responsibility to maintain & fix.

Mayor Chris Lain shared he had received a letter of approval from the EDA on the Wacker Road Project to go out for bid, which is one step closer to getting things started. The government shut down delayed the approval. Hopefully the IDOT will give their approval within the next week.

ADJOURNMENT:

With nothing further, **Mayor Chris Lain made a motion to adjourn at 8:14 pm.**

Minutes composed by: Rhonda Weiss, City Clerk