

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL IN
THE CITY OF SAVANNA, CARROLL COUNTY, ILLINOIS, ON TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 24, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT
333 CHICAGO AVENUE, SAVANNA, ILLINOIS 61074**

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Jeff Griswold called the meeting to order on said date at 6:00 P.M. Notice of the meeting was delivered to all Council members and posted at 333 Chicago Ave, Savanna, Illinois, in accordance with the State of Illinois Open Meetings Act.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Jeff Griswold led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Receive Public Comments on the IEPA State Revolving Fund Loan Project Plan and Preliminary Environmental Impacts Determination for Lead Service Line Replacement and Water System Improvements Projects: Mayor Jeff Griswold called the public hearing to order. Nick Law motioned to begin the public hearing at 6:02 P.M., seconded by Pat Sanchez. Tara Walters led the public hearing stating the hearing was for potential upcoming projects and receiving public comments regarding IEPA SRF Loan Project Plan and Preliminary Environmental Impacts Determination for Lead Service Line Replacement and Water System Improvement Projects. The projects would be funded with a loan and public comments can be made during the public hearing, written comments to the City of Savanna or the IEPA by March 9th, 2026. No public comments were made during the meeting. Tara Walters stated there are no environmental impacts. With no questions, Nick Law motioned to adjourn the public hearing, seconded by Rob Daives at 6:07 P.M.

ROLL CALL/ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM:

After the roll call, Mayor Jeff Griswold established a quorum. Present from the Council were: Jim Friedenbach, Jacob Helms, Nick Law, Rob Davies, Katie Herrig, and Pat Sanchez. Also present was Police Chief Don Stephens, Budget Officer Brittany Hatteberg, Fire Chief Scott Parker, Assistant Superintendent of Public Works Eric Hartman, Mike Miller, Mike Nester, Tara Walters with MSA, Cheyenne Hoffman with Fehr Graham, and City Attorney Scott Anderson.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

A motion was made by Nick Law and second by Jacob Helms to approve the agenda. All voting in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Consideration of the Minutes of February 10, 2026 Regular Meeting: Nick Law motioned to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Pat Sanchez. All voting in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Public Safety Committee, 2-24-26: Jacob Helms gave an update from the committee meeting. He stated they discussed hiring a fire inspector, review an ordinance for vehicle accidents, and review an ordinance for open burning. Jacob Helms stated both ordinances are being reviewed and there may be some changes following discussion, the ordinances would both come to council at a later date for review and possible approval.

Hiring of Fire Inspector: Jacob Helms stated the committee would like to move forward on hiring Alex Jackson for the Fire Inspector Position. Training and compensation would be determined at a later date.

Following discussion, Katie Herrig motioned to accept the committee report as presented, seconded by Pat Sanchez. All voting in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Resignation of City Clerk: Mayor Jeff Griswold stated Betsy Kinder submitted her resignation as city clerk effective immediately on February 20, 2026. After a brief discussion, Nick Law motioned to approve the resignation of City Clerk Betsy Kinder, seconded by Pat Sanchez. Roll call vote aye: Jacob Helms, Nick Law, Rob Davies, Katie Herrig, Pat Sanchez, and Jim Friedenbach. Nay: None. Motion passed.

APPOINTMENTS:

City Clerk: Mayor Jeff Griswold stated he reached out to two individuals trying to fill the appointment, at this time both have declined. Mayor Jeff Griswold stated if anyone has any recommendations on anyone interested to please let him know.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

MSA, Project Update: Tara Walters was in attendance, she stated there was no update at this time on any current projects.

Ordinance, Amending Title 3, Chapter 2, Section 1, Schedule of Fees:

Ordinance, Amending Title 10, Chapter 2, Section 13 (B), Bed and Breakfast:

Ordinance, Amending Title 4, Chapter 2, Section 11, Motels, Hotels, Lodging

Houses/Rooms, and Boarding/Rooming Houses: These three ordinances are on the agenda for second read. Following discussion, Pat Sanchez motioned to approve the three ordinances, seconded by Jacob Helms. All voting in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Request for Unbudgeted Funds, Community Funding and Planning, BAAD Grant Administration:

Request for Unbudgeted Funds Community Funding and Planning, FLAP Grant

Application: Pat Sanchez stated he emailed Megan Lamb regarding input on if TIF or Business Development District (BDD) funds could be used for the BAAD Grant Administration with CFPS and the FLAP Grant Application. Megan Lamb responded with additional questions, Budget Officer Brittany Hatteberg responded, but we are waiting for another response from Megan Lamb before moving forward. Pat Sanchez recommended paying these from the Civic Fund for now, if it is determined TIF or BDD funds could be used we would then pay back Civic Fund. Budget Officer Brittany Hatteberg stated the BAAD Grant Administration isn't due at this time, stating this would be invoiced throughout the project from CFPS and the FLAP Grant Application needed to be paid as soon as feasibly possible as the work has already been completed. Pat Sanchez stated we would table both items for now while we wait for a response from Megan Lamb.

Waive Bidding Process for BAAD Grant: Nick Law stated we needed two thirds vote to waive the bidding for the docks, we have received a bid. Nick Law stated we want to try and get the docks completed between April/May, a proposal was provided from Superior Seawalls, Dock & Gangway. Nick Law motioned to waive the bidding process for BAAD Grant, seconded by Pat Sanchez. With no further discussion Mayor Jeff Griswold asked for a roll call. Roll call vote aye: Nick Law, Rob Davies, Katie Herrig, Pat Sanchez, Jim Friedenbach, and Jacob Helms. Nay: None. Motion passed.

Accept Proposal From Superior Seawalls, Docks, Dredging for Floating Dock & Gangway:

Nick Law stated this is 100-foot-long dock, instead of concrete the committee wants to move forward on composite decking which is an additional \$7,900.00. The total amount would then come out to \$172,800.00 for the docks. Jacob Helms asked what the original grant amount was for, it was stated the grant is in the amount of \$164,000.00. Nick Law said the city would need to come up with the difference, with Pat Sanchez adding this was included on the email to Megan Lamb on if the city can use TIF or BDD funds for the difference. Pat Sanchez added we needed to confirm with Megan Lamb the boundaries for the TIF District, it appears on the map it goes up to the river but not into the river which is where the docks would be located. Pat Sanchez stated if funds can't come from TIF or BDD we would need to pay the difference from Civic Fund. Katie Herrig asked about regulations for TIF and BDD Funds, with Mayor Jeff Griswold stating TIF Funds are more restrictive for spending. Jacob Helms asked City Attorney Scott Anderson if Tort Liability (Insurance) Fund could be used for the ADA compliance portion for the dock, City Attorney Scott Anderson stated no because it is an extension. With no further discussion, Jacob Helms made a motion to accept the proposal from Superior Seawalls, Docks, Dredging for Floating Dock & Gangway for the docks, seconded by Jim Friedenbach. Jim Friedenbach asked if there was a lead time, Nick Law stated it is a rough time of April and May. Pat Sanchez and Nick Law stated we would need to look into lighting as that is not part of the proposal. Roll call vote aye: Rob Davies, Katie Herrig, Pat Sanchez, Jim Friedenbach, Jacob Helms, and Nick Law. Nay: None. Motion passed.

Fees to Park in City Lot by Fire Station: Assistant Superintendent of Public Works Eric Hartman has talked to Sullivan's about semi parking. Mayor Jeff Griswold is proposing a \$1,000 permit/fee to park to deter people from wanting to do it. Katie Herrig asked about limiting parking during community events in the parking lot. Verification was made this parking is between the fire station garage and the train car. Mayor Jeff Griswold stated we need to avoid further damage to the chip and seal by saying the cab must remain attached to the trailer. Nick Law asked about parking and ownership behind the old Shopko building, Mayor Jeff Griswold stated it is not city property and would be owned by Scott Sullivan. Pat Sanchez stated a permit/fee also needs to state any damage to property would need to be addressed, it is under the assumption damage would be covered by the permit/fee. City Attorney Scott Anderson stated we need to be careful so this doesn't force people to park on Chicago Avenue, Third Street, etc. Nick Law asked if this

should go to committee, Mayor Jeff Griswold said it should probably go to the Public Works Committee.

Resolution in Support of Port Development at Savanna Industrial Park: It was asked which project this was for, Mike Nester said this is to put a conveyor belt across Brick House Slough near the Apple River. There was a prediction for how many jobs it would create for trucking, construction, etc. It was further stated this is a study for feasibility on this potentially happening at the LRA and Port District to develop a port facility. Pat Sanchez asked about the impact to the environment. City Attorney Scott Anderson stated the project would be heavily regulated with this happening in fifteen or twenty years. Jacob Helms stated he is interested but wants more time to review and understand what is being asked. Mayor Jeff Griswold stated it can be tabled but background and details are provided for information. Rob Davies stated this is the first step in the process for many years and says it will take years for a fully functional facility at this location. The goal is to have a state-of-the-art facility and plans to protect the wildlife and environment. Mayor Jeff Griswold stated this would be tabled for further discussion at a future meeting.

Consideration and Approval of Unbudgeted Funds for Emergency Repair Costs to Well #4:

Mayor Jeff Griswold stated over the weekend he was notified Well #4 was not pumping and on Monday a company started to pull the pump and column pipes for inspection. Once everything is pulled, they can refurbish some of the items and the shaft was broken in three different places. Jacob Helms asked about the maintenance schedule, Mayor Jeff Griswold said it is every eight years and this pump was last pulled in 2018. Each pump is different in town because of the different pressures so it doesn't help to have a pump on standby, there is a six-week lead time to get the well fixed. A submersible pump is being installed for the time being to assist the well by the Veterans Memorial. Mayor Jeff Griswold stated the overall cost could be about \$56,000. Jacob Helms asked about the maintenance schedule and Mayor Jeff Griswold stated we should look into a different volt pump in the future. Pat Sanchez brought up how we are going to pay for the unbudgeted expense, Budget Officer Brittany Hatteberg stated in years past it has been paid from Water System Improvement Fund. Assistant Superintendent of Public Works Eric Hartman said he recommends the wells be inspected every five years, council will review this for the future. Pat Sanchez made a motion to approve the Unbudgeted Funds for Emergency Repair Costs to Well #4 in the amount not to exceed \$75,000.00 from Water System Improvement Fund, seconded by Nick Law. Roll call vote aye: Katie Herrig, Pat Sanchez, Jim Friedenbach, Jacob Helms, Nick Law, and Rob Davies. Nay: None. Motion passed.

CITIZENS, COUNCIL, MEMBERS:

Mayor Jeff Griswold stated over the next two days city emails will be transitioning away from Zoho. Once completed new email accounts will be provided so everyone will have an @savanna-il.us email.

Jim Friedenbach asked if there was an update on the Pool 13 Teardown. Tara Walters stated we received proper approvals and the bid packets will be put together and the project will go out for bid shortly.

Pat Sanchez asked the council for opinions on lighting around the train car, he requested any suggestions be sent to him. Pat Sanchez will be talking with Jeff Law for input as well.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Jeff Griswold adjourned the meeting at 7:05 P.M.

Minutes composed by Brittany Hatteberg, Deputy City Clerk.