

# **CITY OF BATAVIA BUSINESS MINUTES APRIL 12, 2021**

The regular business meeting of the City Council was held Monday, April 12, 2021 in the Council Chambers, One Batavia City Centre, Batavia, New York, with Council President Jankowski presiding.

Present were Council President Jankowski and Councilmembers Pacino, Briggs, Viele, Canale, Christian, McGinnis, Bialkowski, and Karas. Present from the City were Chief Heubusch, Chief Napolitano, Ray Tourt and Lisa Casey.

Council President Jankowski called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Councilmember Canale led the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes from the March 2021 meetings and the February 2021 financials were approved.

The Council President assigned the regular agenda items.

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## **Communications**

Girls on the Run submitted an application to use the perimeter of Centennial Park on Wednesdays and Saturdays from April 13 to June 5, 3:30 – 5:00pm for practice. Council approved.

Informational – Batavia Youth Baseball submitted an application to use the four youth fields at MacArthur baseball field and Williams field everyday, 8:00am – 10:00pm, from March 1<sup>st</sup> to October 31<sup>st</sup>.

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## **Council President's Report**

Council President Jankowski announced that the next City Council Conference Meeting and Special Business Meeting would be held on Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall, Council Board Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, City Centre.

Proclamation – Retired Officer Jason Davis – Council President Jankowski noted that Officer Davis retired as a police officer after nearly 22 years of service. He listed the many roles he served and noted that he volunteered as a Boy Scout troop leader as well. Officer Davis was a positive role model to the other officers and the City offered their sincere thanks for his dedicated service to the community. Officer Davis thanked the City for the

opportunity he was given when he transferred to the City in 1999. He also thanked other employees and Council.

Proclamation – National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week April 11 – 17<sup>th</sup> – Councilmember Karas noted that public safety telecommunicators contribute to the apprehension of criminals, treatment of patients and response to fires. City Council recognized this week as Public Safety Telecommunicators week. Undersheriff Mazur and Frank Riccobono accepted the proclamation. Undersheriff Mazur wanted to recognize the dispatchers for their true dedication to this service.

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### **City Attorney's Report**

George Van Nest, City Attorney, had nothing specific to report.

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### **City Manager's Report**

Rachael Tabelski noted that the police station feasibility study was expected to be presented to Council in June, the Jackson Square DRI enhancement was almost finished with the design concept, and COVID vaccinations were still available as of this morning. She stated that the state budget passed and it restored AIM aid to 100% as well as VLT aid. Mrs. Tabelski noted that stimulus funds to the City in the amount of approximately \$1.58 million would be spread over two years and there was an increase in CHIPs aid.

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### **Committee Reports**

None.

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### **Public Comments**

John Roach sent an e-mail asking that VLT money not be used to fund vacation positions because if it is pulled again next year there won't be money to pay for those positions. He asked Council to use the funds to pay down debt, equipment replacement or put towards the new police station.

Mary Ellen Wilber noted that she was speaking on behalf of her sister who lived at 15 Fisher Park. She noted that when we took our driving tests that we were told drivers must have complete control of their vehicle at all times and that pedestrians have the right of way. She explained that her sister was crossing the street with her three grandchildren in the crosswalk

and were hit by a car. The driver checked to see if they were all right and then moved on. She noted that two other vehicles stopped and called the police. She stated that the police chose not to believe her sister or ticket the woman who hit her sister. Ms. Wilber stated that this woman must be given a ticket and asked what's going on in the City of Batavia.

Wendy Walker, 62 Otis St, noted that she received an increase in her assessment to her house in the mail today and asked where this money is going that we are going to be getting. She noted that in the south side there is a lot of crime so no real improvements to the neighborhood and many of her neighbors were relocating out of the state for these very issues. She asked for some consideration and thoughtfulness in this matter.

Karen Sherman, 102 James St, noted that she had the same concerns as the previous speaker, said that the City has raised her taxes every single year since she lived here and it was very hard for her as a single parent. She asked why and where was this going.

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### **Council Responses to Public Comments**

Mrs. Tabelski noted that there were no re-assessments last year and the assessment is based on sales of comparable homes. She noted that homeowners can do an informal review to discuss the change or can go to Grievance Day to grieve the amount to the Board of Assessment Review. She noted that the City portion is still the smallest portion of the taxes that are paid and they pay for police services, fire services, snow plowing and many others. Councilmember Bialkowski noted that we don't raise assessments but rather set a tax levy which is set onto the assessments. He noted that the high housing sales have driven up assessments and the City portion of the taxes is rather conservative for all of the services that we provide. Council President Jankowski noted that a few years ago we had a 0% tax increase and a tax decrease as well. Councilmember Christian noted that we aren't doing anything to help these people. Councilmember Viele noted that the school taxes are the ones that are out of control. Councilmember Canale noted that the housing market is really what is driving the increase in assessments because assessed values are based on what houses are selling for. He suggested signing up for Grievance Day and homeowners to do their homework to compare other homes to theirs.

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### **Unfinished Business**

Councilmember Christian noted that Mr. Van Nest was to get her more information about the liquor license for the Farmer's Market and asked about Savarino. Mrs. Tabelski noted that they were finalizing closing documents in May or June and she expressed Council's displeasure with how long it was taking and he understood.

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**#30-2021**

**A RESOLUTION TO CREATE A TEMPORARY POSITION OF SUPERINTENDENT OF WATER & WASTEWATER**

**Motion of Councilmember Pacino**

**WHEREAS**, in preparation of the upcoming retirement of the current Superintendent of Water & Wastewater, and considering the management responsibilities and workload of this position it will be necessary to create a temporary position; and

**WHEREAS**, the creation of this position will allow for a smoother transition in planning for the retirement and handling the workload of the department.

**WHEREAS**, the newly created temporary position of Superintendent of Water & Wastewater will be placed in the Non-Union salary schedule, grade XIII.

**NOW, THERFORE, BE IT RESOVLED**, that the Council of the City of Batavia hereby authorizes the creation of said position.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City Manager amend the budget and increase the following expenses.

EW 03.8310 100 \$19,000  
EW 03.8320 100 \$19,000  
ES 03.1710 100 \$38,000

**Seconded by Councilmember McGinnis and on roll call approved 9-0.**

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**#31-2021**

**A RESOLUTION TO ALLOW THE COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE TO SUBMIT AN AARP COMMUNITY CHALLENGE GRANT APPLICATION**

**Motion of Councilmember Viele**

**WHEREAS**, AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) is offering a Community Challenge Grant of up to \$10,000; and

**WHEREAS**, the AARP Community Challenge grant offers funding to assist the community garden with expansion of planting beds and materials for a pergola; and

**WHEREAS**, the Community Garden Committee is an eligible applicant for the AARP Community Challenge grant program; and

**WHEREAS**, the Community Garden Committee would like to apply for a 2021 Community Challenge Grant to expand the planting beds and build a pergola; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City of Batavia does hereby authorize submission of an AARP Community Challenge grant application of up to \$10,000 in grant funding.

**Seconded by Councilmember Karas and on roll call approved 9-0.**

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**#32-2021**

**A RESOLUTION TO AWARD A CONTRACT FOR REMOVAL, TRANSPORTATION  
AND DISPOSAL OF LIQUID LIME SLUDGE**

**Motion of Councilmember Canale**

**WHEREAS**, the City has solicited bids for removal, transportation, and disposal of liquid lime sludge from the Water Treatment Plant for a two year term (4/1/21-3/31/23); and

**WHEREAS**, One (1) bid was received on March 23, 2021, and A.D. Call from Stafford, NY, was the lowest responsible bidder.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Council of the City of Batavia that a contract is hereby awarded to A.D. Call, Stafford NY, for \$9,340.00 per event for removal, transportation, and disposal of lime liquid sludge at the Water Treatment Plant.

**Seconded by Councilmember Christian and on roll call approved 9-0.**

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**Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Heidi J Parker  
Clerk-Treasurer**