

CITY OF BATAVIA – CONFERENCE MINUTES

MONDAY, JUNE 22, 2020

Meeting was shown on Facebook live to allow public viewing of the meeting but the meeting was held in person for Council President Jankowski and Councilmembers Bialkowski, Briggs, Christian, McGinnis, Pacino, Canale, Karas, and Viele, all of whom were in attendance.

In attendance from the City of Batavia were Matt Worth, Shawn Heubusch, Stefano Napolitano, Rachael Tabelski, Lisa Neary, Lisa Casey, Dawn Fairbanks, Jocelyn Sikorski (County) and City Attorney George Van Nest.

Call to Order

Council President Jankowski called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Councilmember Briggs led the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments and Council Response to Public Comments

None.

Communications

None.

Council President Report

Council President Jankowski announced the next City Council Business and Conference meeting to be held on Monday, July 13, 2020 at 7:00pm at the City Hall Council Board Room, 2nd Floor, City Centre.

Deer Committee Update

Councilmember Canale spoke with Mr. Nephew from the Deer Committee to make sure they were on the same page. He noted there was some back and forth with the DEC regarding language but as soon as they are able, the committee will come to Council to make a presentation. He asked that the Deer Committee give Council a draft of the presentation as soon as possible to allow Council to review and formulate questions. He noted that there is an August 1st deadline with DEC to apply for what they want from them so hoping to have them at the July meeting.

Route 98 / Oak Street Manholes

Councilmember Karas reminded Council of the Oak St and Richmond Ave residents who were complaining about the truck traffic that causes quite a disturbance when the trucks hit the manholes. He noted that he spoke with Matt Worth and some repairs have been suggested in conjunction with DOT. Mr. Worth noted that the manholes are in the driving lanes and repairs are tentatively scheduled with DOT in August. He noted they would put

06/22/2020

new manhole castings in with different material and it should reduce the noise.

6th Ward Leaders Update – Yard Debris

Councilmember Christian noted that she and two leaders from the 6th ward drove around their ward and found 15 violations including debris, tires, broken windows and others. She noted that they turned the list over to the Inspection Department and will follow up to make sure the violations are taken care of.

Outdoor Dining on City Property Discussion – Temporary COVID-19 Measure

Rachael Tabelski, Acting City Manager, wanted to see what Council thought of allowing restaurants to expand onto municipal property for outdoor dining. She noted that at least three businesses had expressed interest and there is guidance from the NYS Liquor Authority on how to move forward. Mrs. Tabelski noted that she worked with the city attorney on an application, it's similar to an event application with indemnities, and would be a temporary outdoor dining application. Mr. Van Nest stated that this would be a license agreement, revocable, and for a limited period of time. Councilmember Canale felt this was a no-brainer, it was nice seeing restaurants getting creative, and felt it added to the atmosphere downtown. He noted that it will make a big difference economically for the restaurants and didn't see a reason to deny it. Councilmember Briggs noted that we always want to support local businesses so agreed with Councilmember Canale. Councilmember Karas asked if this went well could it be seasonal to allow for more outdoor dining every year. Council President Jankowski felt it could be problematic by allowing a business to make money on city property when others may not have that opportunity. Mrs. Tabelski suggested starting with this and seeing how it goes. Councilmember Bialkowksi asked if the liquor authority was requiring fencing for safety. Mr. Van Nest noted that there are safety regulations but not necessarily requiring fencing and it wasn't a free pass as normal rules still needed to be followed. Councilmember Christian liked Councilmember Karas' idea and especially if they weren't infringing on anyone else. Mr. Van Nest noted that it would be more involved but could consider it at that time.

Sewer Rehabilitation Project – Franklin St and Richmond Ave

Mrs. Tabelski noted that this was originally scheduled as a complete sewer line replacement but, after further review, don't have to reline everything so there is a cost savings. She noted that bids would be opened on July 2nd and will be on the July 13th agenda. Mr. Worth explained that there will be a new surface on Franklin and ADA compliant sidewalks as well. Council agreed to move the item forward.

Youth Bureau Revenue Agreement

Mrs. Tabelski explained that the City budgets approximately \$16,000 in revenue from the County and was told that the County was awarded this subject to availability of state aid. Mrs. Sikorski, Youth Bureau Director, noted that the money has come in. Council agreed to move the resolution to the business meeting immediately following.

Budget Transfers FY 19/20

Mrs. Tabelski stated that these are done each year to account for budget transfers needed to bring lines in balance. She reviewed some of the highlights and noted that there were a couple of health insurance claims that reached the stop loss. Council agreed to move the resolution to the business meeting immediately following.

Audit Committee Appointees

Mrs. Tabelski noted that a memo was issued to appoint Councilmembers to the committee and will meet once a year after the audit is complete to discuss. Council agreed to move the resolution to the business meeting immediately following.

Assigning Donations for K-9 to Committed Fund Balance

Mrs. Tabelski suggested putting K-9 donations into a committed fund balance so they can only be used for that purpose. Council agreed to move the resolution to the business meeting immediately following.

Councilmember Bialkowski noted that he got a call concerned with the event at the YMCA, how loud it was, and parking in no parking zones. He got another call with concern about the celebratory parades, people riding in the back of pickups, and hanging out the windows. He felt they should be safer and suggest shortening routes, sitting down, or slowing down to avoid the dangers of what's being done now. Chief Heubusch noted that they would review protocols. Councilmember Christian didn't think these sort of things would probably happen again and were only happening for particular reasons.

* * *

Conference Meeting adjourned at 7:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Heidi J. Parker
Clerk-Treasurer**

06/22/2020