

CITY OF BATAVIA – CONFERENCE MINUTES

MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2018

Present were Councilpersons Bialkowski, Viele, Briggs, Pacino, McGinnis, Christian and Tabelski. Council President Jankowski was absent and Councilperson Canale arrived at 7:15 PM.

Call to Order

Council President Pro Tem Viele called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Councilperson Pacino led the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments

John Roach, 116 Grandview Terrace, asked if it was possible to create a special use taxing district for the Redfield pillars. He felt that, other than the residents of Redfield Parkway, there probably weren't a lot of other people interested in paying for the pillar repairs. He also wondered if the City was interested in offering the Cold War tax exemption as other jurisdictions had done.

Council Response to Public Comments

Council Briggs noted that she supported the tax exemption and suggested it go on the next conference agenda. Councilperson McGinnis asked if there was a legal mechanism for implementing the special tax. Mr. Van Nest noted that he would have to look into the requirements of creating a special district tax. Councilperson Tabelski thought the concept was probably similar to the lighting district in the Town of Batavia.

Communications

Kibler's Harvester, LLC submitted a liquor license application. There was no objection from the police department. Council approved.

Council President's Report

Matt Worth, Interim City Manager, noted that the next regular City Council Business meeting was scheduled for Monday, February 12, 2018 at 7:00pm at the City Hall Council Board Room, 2nd Floor, City Centre and he wondered if Council was available for a budget session on February 13th as well. He noted that the meeting could start at 6pm if that worked for everyone. He also noted that there would be a budget session on Monday, February 5th as well.

Budget Resolutions that Require Public Hearing

Mr. Worth noted that there were four resolutions that he would like to move forward to the next business meeting where they would be introduced and public hearings set. Council agreed unanimously (7-0) to move the item to the next business meeting.

Redfield Parkway Pillars

Mr. Worth noted that In Site: Architecture, LLP was contacted regarding the Redfield Pillar repair and they provided a proposal not to exceed \$4,860 for evaluation and scope of work. He noted that this is not the cost for a study but for design work, specs, and other administrative work related to the project. Mr. Worth explained that general engineering funds would cover the costs.

Healthy Schools Project

Mr. Worth noted that the project is ready for construction, three bids were received and the lowest came in around \$721,000 which was lower than budgeted costs. He recommended moving the item forward. Council agreed unanimously (7-0) to move the item to the next business meeting.

Foreclosure Property

Mr. Worth noted that the high bidder withdrew their bid for 46 Swan St so it was offered to the back bidder who accepted. It was recommended Council approve the sale. Council agreed unanimously (7-0) to move the item to the next business meeting.

Occupancy Agreement – Courts Facility Renewal/Extension

Mr. Worth noted that the agreement to occupy the courts facility had expired and recommended approving a 10-year extension. Council agreed unanimously (7-0) to move the item to the next business meeting.

Habitat for Humanities – 116 Swan St

Mr. Worth explained that 116 Swan St was in the flood plain, Habitat was willing to demolish the house and build a new one that would be flood compliant. It would be the first flood compliant home in the City but there is a cost to engineer and design a flood compliant home. Habitat is asking Council to provide a grant to cover those costs and then there would be a plan that could be reused for future builds. Mr. Worth suggested using funds from the Vibrant Batavia initiative to cover those costs. Councilperson Christian noted that Habitat does an outstanding job. Council agreed unanimously (8-0) to move the item to the next business meeting.

Batavia Players, Inc. Lease

Mr. Worth stated that Mr. Molino had discussed the possibility of the Batavia Players using mall properties so they could move their business downtown. He noted that the lease would be an escalating lease clause. He also noted that the move would help them with their request for DRI funds. Councilperson Christian asked how much they were asking for from DRI and stated that she had a problem doing anything with the mall because she hopes to get out of that situation completely. Pat Burke, of the Batavia Players, said they were asking for around \$500,000. Councilperson Bialkowski noted that the total square footage in the lease didn't add up and it seemed like 16 Batavia City Centre needed to be included

as well. He also felt the rental fee didn't add up to the amount of the mall maintenance fee so the City would be subsidizing the \$6,000 shortfall. Councilperson Canale noted that the Batavia Players are a pillar of the community and have been for years and if we want to draw activity downtown, they would be a perfect group to start with. He felt that Council should consider how much they will bring to the downtown area and thought they would make a big difference. Councilperson Briggs reminded Council that the Batavia Players needed this to assist with the DRI submission. City management would review the figures in the lease and provide updates, if any, for the next business meeting. Councilperson Tabelski made a motion to move the item forward to the next business meeting, it was seconded by Councilperson Christian, and on roll call, approved 8-0.

Dwyer Stadium Lease and Sublease Extension Agreement

Mr. Van Nest noted that the agreement with the Red Wings was not renewed, there was a transfer in ownership of the Muckdogs, and the NY-Penn league's Batavia Muckdogs, Inc. wants to operate the team and get things moving for 2018. Councilperson Christian asked who would run the team. Mr. Van Nest explained that the Batavia Muckdogs, Inc. would run the team. Councilperson Bialkowski confirmed that they were just approving the same lease but that it was being reassigned to another organization and Mr. Van Nest agreed. Council agreed unanimously (8-0) to move the item forward.

Committee Reports

Councilperson Tabelski noted that GAM met in City Hall on January 18th and the biggest topic was the shared services plan required by the State. He asked that if anyone had ideas to please bring them forward. He noted there was also a request to have more meetings at a central location like the City or the Town so there may be more meetings at City Hall.

* * *

Conference Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Heidi J. Parker
Clerk-Treasurer**