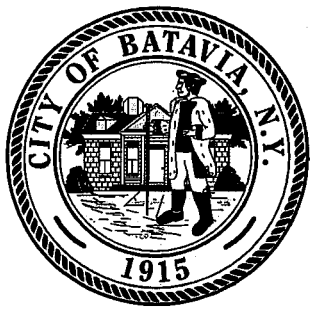


## **BATAVIA CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL CONFERENCE MEETING**

**City Hall - Council Board Room  
One Batavia City Centre  
Monday, March 9, 2020  
(Prior to Business Meeting)**

### **AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Invocation – Councilmember Bialkowski
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Supporting and Urging the Restoration of Video Lottery Terminal Revenue
- V. Adjournment



# City of Batavia

## *Memorandum*

To: Honorable City Council  
From: Dr. Martin D. Moore (Marty)  
Date: February 28, 2020  
Subject: VLT Resolution

I recommend adoption of the attached resolution that asks the State Legislature and the Governor to restore the \$440,789 of VLT Aid that was eliminated in this year's proposed Executive Budget.

Eliminating the VLT Aid creates a budget imbalance for the City of Batavia that has forced us to recommend expense cuts and propose a property tax increase in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget. The expense cuts hinder our ability to provide quality services. The property tax increase burdens local residents and businesses at a time when neighborhood rehabilitation and central business core re-development is starting to gain traction.

Specific impacts of losing the VLT Aid include:

1. recommended expense cuts to the City's Fire, Police, Public Works, and Administrative Services Departments. These cuts impact equipment replacement, youth programs, information technology services, and the addition of a second School Resource Officer to improve student safety.
2. a proposed property tax levy increase of 7.48 % that would increase the tax levy by an additional \$350,000, and exceed the property tax levy cap by \$327,303. This property tax increase is proposed to avoid deeper expense cuts that would downsize existing programs, and lay off employees.

**#-2020**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AND URGING THE RESTORATION OF  
VIDEO LOTTERY TERMINAL (VLT) REVENUE**

**Motion of Councilmember**

**WHEREAS**, Video Lottery Terminal (VLT) revenue in the City of Batavia budget is the fourth largest source of revenue within the City's General Fund; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor of the State of New York in his proposed budget has terminated Video Lottery revenue for host municipalities such as the City of Batavia; and

**WHEREAS**, if the Governor's proposed is adopted the City will lose \$440,789 in VLT revenue in its fiscal year 2020/2021; and

**WHEREAS**, a revenue loss of that magnitude would result in a combination of:

1. a significant expense cut to the City's Fire, Police, Public Works, and Administrative Services Departments that impact equipment replacement, youth programs, information technology services, and the addition of a second School Resource Officer to improve student safety; and
2. a general City tax rate increase of \$0.67/\$1,000 to retain services and current employees that exceeds our tax cap limit, requiring a local law tax cap override; and

**WHEREAS**, with the proposed property tax increase, a property owner with an assessed valuation of \$100,000 would pay \$67.00 more per year so the City can avoid deep program cuts and employee layoffs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor's proposed elimination of this revenue stream eliminates the reimbursement to the City of Batavia for its incurred expenses associated with hosting the Batavia Downs Race Track and Casino.

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**, That the City Council of the City of Batavia, New York supports and urges the full restoration of the Video Lottery Terminal (VLT) Aid Fund; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the maintenance of the sum of \$400,789 must be sustained in order to preserve the quality of services that the citizens/tax payers of the City of Batavia expect and deserve; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Clerk Certified copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Governor of the State of New York, the Lieutenant Governor of the State of New York, the Speaker of the New York State Assembly, the Temporary President of the New York State Senate, New York State Senator Ranzenhofer, Assemblymember Hawley, and Chair of the Batavia Downs/WROTB Board, Henry Wojtaszek.

**Seconded by Councilmember**

**And on roll call**