

# **CITY OF BATAVIA – CONFERENCE MINUTES**

## **MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2020**

Present were Council President Jankowski and Councilmembers Bialkowski, Briggs, Pacino, McGinnis, Canale, Viele, Karas, and Christian.

In attendance from the City of Batavia were Ray Tourt, Chief Heubusch, Chief Napolitano, and Lisa Casey. The meeting was closed to the public due to COVID-19.

### **Call to Order**

Council President Jankowski called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM after a ten minute meeting with the City Attorney. Councilmember Bialkowski led the prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Public Comments**

None.

### **Council Response to Public Comments**

None.

### **Communications**

None.

### **Council President Report**

Council President Jankowski announced the next City Council Business meeting to be held on Monday, January 11, 2021 at 7:00pm at the City Hall Council Board Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, City Centre.

### **City Centre Feasibility Study Review Presentation**

Mrs. Tabelski noted that a feasibility study was done on the City Centre and introduced Ed Flynn from LaBella to make the presentation. Mr. Flynn noted that the main objective was to show how we would spend the \$1million DRI money. He reviewed the committee makeup, meetings that were held, and overview of the project and goals. Mr. Flynn went over the concepts of the City Centre including entrances, concourse, and the Bank St corridor. He discussed the cost estimates and grant funding options along with the prospectus that was put together with all of the information in one place. He noted that the changes would satisfy the mall agreements as well as the DRI requirements and there would be enough funding to do what we wanted to do. Mrs. Tabelski noted that there is still a portion of the roof that needs to be completed and that will go out to bid in the spring to satisfy the agreement with the mall merchants. She noted that there was still a lot of time before the City Centre updates got going. Councilmember Bialkowski asked if the

outside façade improvements were voluntary. Mr. Flynn noted that they were but there was a 75% reimbursement being offered to incentivize them to make those improvements. Council President Jankowski was concerned that the rendering showed brick floors and brick walls and it seemed a bit much. He was also concerned with brick floors not being very smooth for strollers, wheelchairs, etc. Mr. Flynn noted that it was the appearance of brick so it would not be actual brick pavers. Councilmember Canale asked if the theatre was still planning to do façade work. Mrs. Tabelski noted that they did not have the funds to commit to outside.

#### **Appoint Members to Various City Committees / Boards**

Councilmember Briggs noted that the appointees were all city residents and they recommended approval of their appointments to the Historic Preservation Commission. Council agreed to move the item to the business agenda immediately following.

#### **Appointing the Part-Time City Court Judge**

Council President Jankowski noted that the consensus was to name Thomas Burns to the position of Part-Time City Court Judge. Councilmember Bialkowski was concerned with the part-time judge and full-time judge and felt there was a conflict of interest with Mr. Burn's wife working in the public defender's office. Councilmember Christian noted that she enjoyed his resume and that he has been a member of this community his whole life. She noted that she was really impressed with him. Council agreed to move the item to the business agenda immediately following.

#### **To Support the Submission of a New York Main Street Grant Application By the Batavia Development Corporation (BDC)**

Mr. Maguire recommended a winter 2021 submission of a grant application for the Theatre 56 project. He noted that the BDC has been very successful in getting grants and the theatre needed this to close their funding gap. Councilmember Christian asked how much we have received in property tax from these projects. Mr. Maguire noted that it was hard to quantify but they bring people downtown to spend money and invest in properties. He noted that he would try to get her more information. Council agreed to move the item to the business meeting immediately following.

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**Conference Meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Heidi J. Parker  
Clerk-Treasurer**

12/07/2020