

CITY OF BATAVIA – CONFERENCE MINUTES

MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 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 Matt Worth, Chief Heubusch, Chief Napolitano, Dawn Fairbanks, Lisa Casey, and Lisa Neary. Andrew Maguire was in attendance from the BDC.

Call to Order

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

Public Comments

John Roach, 116 Grandview Ter, noted that Council had the deer management agreement on the agenda, asked them to pass it so the committee could do what they needed to do to move this forward. He also stated that Council all knew the previous City Manager was leaving but they didn't have a plan for what to do. He hoped that Council would just hire the Assistant City Manager, hire local, she's been around a while, and wondered what it would say to her if they didn't. He told Council to save money and time and make a decision.

Sam DiSalvo, 111 Main St, stated that, regarding the police advisory stakeholder group, he wanted Council to vote against the resolution because of the makeup of the group. He noted that it only had two citizens and felt that was atrocious. He noted that this group was to talk about how police treat citizens but there are only two citizens. He suggested that they don't need three people from the police department and three attorneys but that one of each was enough. He said you need citizens and it should be at least half citizens and at least two people of color. He also suggested holding a search for the City Manager.

Council Response to Public Comments

Councilmember Christian stated that she doesn't think that the police department has abused anyone and didn't agree with most of what Mr. DiSalvo said. Mrs. Tabelski noted that in the Governor's executive order, it spelled out who must be in the group. Council President Jankowski noted that people could put their name in a hat and will be considered for the group. He stated that they would do their best to make a diverse group. Councilmember Bialkowski noted that the simple solution to these problems was to stop breaking the law. He stated that he agreed with Councilmember Christian, believes we have a fine police force, and we don't get many complaints.

Communications

Informational Only:

Batavia Softball League requested use of Kibbe Park and occasionally Williams from July 16th to October 17th. There would be three leagues and would play Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Field reservations have been paid for through September 18th. We still need the safety plan and insurance.

Kelly's Holland Inn submitted a liquor license renewal and there were no objections from the police department. Council approved.

Council President Report

Council President Jankowski announced the next City Council Business meeting to be held on Monday, September 14, 2020 at 7:00pm at the City Hall Council Board Room, 2nd Floor, City Centre.

Police Advisory Stakeholder Group

Mrs. Tabelski noted that this would be an opportunity for members to come together to form this stakeholder group and she was seeking community members to be in the group. Mr. Van Nest noted there were eight legislative changes issued by the state relating to policing. Chief Heubusch presented some crime statistics, data, and that the overall trend is a reduction in crime in the City of Batavia. He reviewed the executive order and where the police department stands with regards to those policies. He noted that most places don't have de-escalation training but the Batavia PD does. Chief Heubusch noted that they were in the process of getting NYS Accreditation and the next step was the formation of the police advisory stakeholder group. Mrs. Tabelski noted that the executive order spelled out what we had to do – not what we *think* needs to be done but they spell out what needs to be done. She noted that they would be accepting letters of interest to serve on the group through September 1, 2020 and a draft would go to Council in January 2021. Councilmember Bialkowski asked who would pick the group. Council President Jankowski stated that the City Manager and Police Chief were responsible for selecting the group. Councilmember Bialkowski suggested changing the citizen representatives from two to four people. Council President Jankowski thought that the priority was to find resident representatives. Councilmember Pacino asked how often the police department would need to be accredited. Chief Heubusch replied that it was every two years but it was easier in subsequent years. Mrs. Tabelski stated that letters of interest could be sent to her e-mail address. Council agreed to move the item to the business meeting immediately following.

Client First Professional Services Agreement

Mrs. Tabelski noted that the City has been working on the software conversion project and worked with Client First to help choose and organize the different facets of the transition. She noted the City had received a lot of value from Client First and want to continue utilizing their services. Council agreed to move the item to the meeting immediately following.

Systems East Tax Collection Software

Mrs. Tabelski explained that the Clerk's office will be implementing a new tax collection software and a third party vendor was needed to supplement the New World system. She recommended Systems East as that vendor. Council agreed to move the item to the meeting immediately following.

GAR Associates Contract Renewal

Mrs. Tabelski noted that the City has contracted with GAR since 2015 for assessment services for the City and asking for a one-year renewal. She noted they have kept their rates the same since 2015. Council agreed to move the item to the business meeting immediately following.

Fire Department Grants – Amend City Fire Department 2020-2021 Budget

Chief Napolitano noted that they have been diligently trying to secure additional funding that's not taxpayer funded and explained the details of the grants received. This would amend the budget to accept the three grants and the donation from FM Global. Council agreed to move the item to the September business agenda.

Review Planning & Development Board Recommendation to Amend Local Law I-1 Zoning Allowing Public Garages

Mr. Worth noted that Council had directed public works to send this to the PDC a while back to see if public garages should be allowed in this zone. If Council approves, the Inspection department will send it to County planning for review and then it would go through the local law channels to change the zoning. Council agreed to send to County planning and to put on the September business agenda.

Lead Services Grant Construction Bid

Mr. Worth noted that the City received a grant to replace lead services and while identifying those services found that there were less lead services than expected, which was a good thing. He noted that this was ready to go to bid and would get more information once the bids came in. Council agreed to move the item to the September business agenda.

Covid-19 Financial Update

Mrs. Tabelski noted that after seeing the first quarter financials she was projecting less loss than originally anticipated even though there will still probably be over a million-dollar loss. She noted that she will revisit each quarter and the departments made a lot of cost saving measures. She explained that these were cuts of services and not because of fluff in the budget.

Issuance of Serial Bonds for Jet-Vacuum Truck for DPW

Mrs. Tabelski was asking for a bond resolution for the replacement of a 1994 vector truck.

The bond will not exceed \$420,000 and the purchase was part of the equipment replacement plan. Council agreed to move the item to the September business agenda.

Stipend for Employees

Mrs. Tabelski recommended certain employees who are taking over the vacant Assistant City Manager duties be compensated for their additional roles and responsibilities while the search for a new City Manager continues. She asked for an additional \$750 per month retroactive to 7/1/2020. Councilmember Christian asked how many months this would be for and how many hours were they working. Mrs. Tabelski stated that it would be until the duties of the Assistant and City Manager were filled and were working over 7.5 hours up to 15 hours per day. Councilmember Christian noted that she would love to do this but noted that Council also already gave those employees a raise. Councilmember Viele noted that he was all for it and thanked those employees for stepping up to the plate. Councilmember Briggs stated that Council has approved things like this in the past and supported it now. Councilmember Canale noted that we asked them to step up and fill vacant jobs and it's a lot of extra work. He agreed we need to keep an eye on spending but want to pay our employees appropriately. Councilmember Bialkowski noted that other department heads work more than 40 hours but don't come in and ask for more money. Council President Jankowski noted that all of the employees are non-union, they sign on for a job then someone leaves and now they are expected to do more. He noted that if they were union employees the union representative would demand compensation. He asked if it was proper to just dump more work on them and then turn our backs. Council President Jankowski noted that we are trying to reward them for taking up the slack, we have an empty spot and using that money to cover this extra cost. He thought it was good business. Council agreed to move the item to the business agenda immediately following.

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Conference Meeting adjourned at 8:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Heidi J. Parker
Clerk-Treasurer**

08/10/2020