

CITY OF BATAVIA – CONFERENCE MINUTES

MONDAY, JUNE 28, 2021

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

In attendance from the City of Batavia were Ray Tourt, Chief Heubusch, Chief Napolitano, and Lisa Casey.

Call to Order

Council President Jankowski called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Councilmember Viele led the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments

John Roach, 116 Grandview Ter, asked if there was any update on the rocket car and the restoration.

Phil Boyd, 4 Hart St, noted that he mapped out the disc golf course, have prices for sponsorships, and just looking for the topic to be brought up on the Council agenda. Council President Jankowski told him to just give all of the information to the City Manager and she would take it from there.

Doug Forsyth, 25 Union Square, noted that he was just there to support the disc golf idea and noted that they have already secured some funding.

Louis Ortiz, 35 Spencer Court, noted that he was also there to support disc golf.

Lynne Geissler, 43 ½ Washington Ave, was concerned about her neighborhood. She noted that she had lived at the corner of Washington and Willow for four years and there has been a lot of police activity lately. She noted that she had gone to the police department but wasn't able to come in so wasn't sure what to do. She stated that she understood there are a lot of issues but nothing was getting fixed and something needed to be done. Council President Jankowski noted that she could always call the police department if she wasn't able to go in. He also pointed out Chief Heubusch to her and suggested speaking with him.

Council Response to Public Comments

Councilmember Bialkowski noted that the Rocket Car was in the parade, a lot of progress had been made on the restoration, and it was almost complete. Mrs. Tabela noted that a permanent home hadn't been established yet for the vehicle.

Councilmember Briggs noted that she had even received some calls from State Street residents who have been concerned and called the police. She noted that the police are doing what they can but the landlords have to take some responsibility as well.

Mrs. Tabelski noted that she had gone out with Mr. Boyd and Mr. Tourt to see the disc golf options and they found that Centennial Park would be the preferred location. She noted that she would bring the topic to the July 12th meeting.

Communications

Royals Barber Shop submitted an application for a kickball tournament on Sunday, July 18th in Kibbe Park from 9:00am – 8:00pm. Council approved.

Council President's Report

Council President Jankowski announced the next regular City Council Business and Conference meeting to be held on Monday, July 12, 2021 at 7:00pm at the City Hall Council Board Room, 2nd Floor, City Centre.

Council President Jankowski wanted to extend well wishes to Chief Napolitano who had accepted a position as the Deputy State Fire Administrator which is a division of Homeland Security. Mrs. Tabelski thanked the Chief for his service to the City and noted that he was a true leader with his staff. Chief Napolitano noted that it has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as fire chief and that he was successful because of his team. He noted that he couldn't take any credit for his department as it was all because of his staff. He noted that it was bittersweet leaving and hoped to travel across NYS for his new job and be able to stop in at some time. He thanked Matt Worth, Jim Ficarella (both recent retirees), Mrs. Tabelski, Ray Tourt, and Chief Heubusch as well as other City employees for embracing him when he first started. He stated that it has been an absolute pleasure. Mrs. Tabelski announced then that Captain Herberger would be appointed as Interim Fire Chief effective July 9th. She noted that Captain Herberger stepped into this role in 2016-2017 as well after the previous Chief had left.

Bail Reform Letter

Mrs. Tabelski noted that a copy of the letter was given to Council with some minor changes. Councilmember Christian felt the letter now had some teeth since it is presented by the entire board. Councilmember Bialkowski suggested forwarding it to GAM so they could give it to other municipalities who may want to send a similar letter. Mrs. Tabelski noted that she would send it as a Word document so it could be amended to fit the individual municipality.

Support Consolidated Funding Application through Community Development Block Grant – Jackson Street Water

Mrs. Tabelski noted that the City was requesting grant funds for replacement of four and six inch lines with eight inch water lines. She asked to move the resolution to the business meeting immediately following and Council approved.

Schedule a Public Hearing for CDBG Application – Jackson Street Water

Mrs. Tabelski noted that this is just to schedule the public hearing for this grant application.

Council agreed to move the item to the business meeting immediately following.

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Conference Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Heidi J. Parker
Clerk-Treasurer**

06/28/2021