

CITY OF BATAVIA – CONFERENCE MINUTES

MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 2019

Present were Council President Jankowski and Councilpersons Bialkowski, Viele, Briggs, Pacino, McGinnis and, Christian. Councilpersons Tabelski and Canale were absent.

Call to Order

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

Public Comments

Chris Connelly, 137 Pearl St, noted that the Governor signed the Reproductive Health Act but he felt that abortion was murder. He suggested that the City shut down Planned Parenthood and stand for what is right. He asked that the City be a sanctuary city for the unborn and read a passage from the Bible.

John Roach, 116 Grandview Ter, asked how many times the fire department has to leave the City for mutual aid and how many times personnel has to be called in for overtime. Mr. Roach asked if we could recoup any of the overtime cost from the other municipalities we are assisting.

Council Response to Public Comments

Councilperson Christian asked if we could pass a resolution declaring the City of Batavia a sanctuary city for the unborn. Mr. Van Nest noted that a letter in opposition of the legislation could be sent. Council President Jankowski asked the City Manager to draft a letter in opposition of the Reproductive Health Act.

Councilperson Bialkowski asked for an update on Bank St crosswalk and asked Larry Barnes, City Historian, to address Council as he does not have any funds in the budget for that position. Mr. Moore noted that they were looking to update signage at the crosswalk and the police department was looking into funding for enforcement. He noted that there were six organizations on the one side of Bank St and would solicit suggestions from them. He noted the crosswalk wasn't conducive for pedestrians or motorists.

Council President Jankowski noted that we both provide and receive mutual aid and we don't get charged anything from the other municipalities. Chief Napolitano noted that mutual aid is a reciprocal agreement. He stated that even though there is a cost when people are called in, they don't always have to call people in. He noted that the benefit derived from the mutual aid agreement is invaluable.

Communications

None.

Council President's Report

Council President Jankowski announced the next regular City Council Business meeting to be held on Monday, February 11, 2019 at 7:00pm at the City Hall Council Board Room, 2nd Floor, City Centre.

Proclamation – Karen Benedict Retirement – Councilperson Pacino presented a proclamation to Karen Benedict, police clerk, who retired after nearly 20 years. Councilperson Pacino noted that Mrs. Benedict consistently demonstrated a commitment to her job, had gone above and beyond and always displayed a positive attitude. She thanked Mrs. Benedict for her dedicated service to the City of Batavia. Mrs. Benedict noted that she truly appreciated working for the City and truly appreciated the City's police department. She stated that they are remarkable.

Introducing and Scheduling a Public Hearing on the 2019-2020 Budget

Council agreed to move the introduction of the budget and public hearing scheduling forward.

Introducing and Scheduling a Public Hearing on Amendments to Batavia Municipal Code Section 184-41 (A), (B), (C), and (O) Water Rates, Meter Fees and Capital Improvement Fees

Council agreed to move the introduction of the rate changes and public hearing scheduling forward.

Ordinance Schedule Public Hearing for Sign Code Change

Mr. Van Nest noted that the changes had already been through the Planning and Development Committee and County Planning. Council agreed to move the item forward for updates to the digital sign code.

Sign Code Changes – SEQR Lead Agency Designation

Mr. Worth explained that as part of the procedure for changing the ordinance, Council needs to be designated as lead agency for the SEQR process and adopting the new sign code. Council agreed to move the item forward.

Appoint Members to Various City Committees/Boards

Council agreed to move the item forward.

NYS Arterial Supplement Agreement No. 7

Mr. Worth noted that the City previously extended the arterial agreement but there had been a discrepancy with quantities since 1994. He noted that the City would now receive \$218,000 for back pay for that discrepancy and receive an increase of \$6,000 annually. He noted this was an amendment to the previously approved 30-year agreement. Council

agreed to move the item forward.

Petition for Zoning Ordinance Change

Mr. Worth noted that Mr. Yasses obtained property on Cedar Street but there was no provision for having storage units on that property. He explained that Mr. Yasses is requesting that the I-1 and I-2 districts be amended to have storage facilities be an allowed use. He noted that nowhere is self-storage an allowed use and this makes sense to put it here. Councilperson Christian noted that this change will increase the aesthetics of that area and would like to see this go through. Council President Jankowski confirmed that this would go to the planning board first. Council agreed to move the item forward.

Appointing a Fair Housing Officer & ADA Coordinator

Mr. Moore explained that this appointment needs to be made periodically and is related to CDBG. He noted that someone needs to be designated and it was previously Mr. Molino. He recommended appointing the City Manager to fill these positions. Council agreed to move the item forward.

2019 Stop DWI Grant Award

Chief Hebusch noted that each year they apply for and are awarded funding from the County and the grant started on 1/2/19 amounting to \$17,981. He noted this would be to accept the funding and would be voted on at the special business meeting immediately following this meeting. Council agreed to move the item to the business meeting immediately following.

Creek Park Feasibility Study Agreement

Mr. Moore noted that this had come before Council in July 2018 and was related to the ice arena. He noted that the City had received a letter stating they had to respond by February 1st and need permission to move forward. Councilperson Bialkowski asked if the match had been confirmed and Mr. Moore noted that it had been and he had a list of private donors. Councilperson Bialkowski confirmed that this was just a study and didn't tie the City to anything further. Mr. Moore agreed. Council agreed to move the item to the business meeting immediately following due to the time sensitivity.

Non-Union Compensation Adjustments

Mr. Moore explained that one of his goals was to look at if non-union employees were fairly compensated and this would be to correct the inaccuracies. Council President Jankowski noted that these would be monitored through the budget process. Council agreed to move the item forward.

Inter-Municipal Agreement – Real Property Tax Project Management

Rhonda Saulsbury, City Assessor, noted that this was a 2-year extension of the contract with the County that the City has had for many years. Council agreed to move the item

forward.

Special Legislation for a Forty Year Sales Tax Allocation Agreement

Mr. Moore thanked legal counsel for reaching out to Senator Ranzenhofer and noted they wanted a resolution supporting the 40-year agreement. Mr. Van Nest noted that most of the resolution was drafted already by Ranzenhofer's office but they were just waiting for the City's resolution. Council agreed to move the item forward.

BOND – To Finance the Installation and Construction of Certain Sidewalk Improvements and Traffic Signal Improvements

Mr. Moore noted that the City has some projects moving forward that need funding. Mr. Worth noted it was for the pedestrian way, TAP project. He noted that bond allows for cash flow management as we upfront the money and they are reimbursed 75%. He noted the projects were planned in capital planning. Mr. Worth stated that initial estimates indicate that the projects will come in under budget. Council agreed to move the item forward.

BOND – To Finance the Replacement of Public Water System Improvements and Drainage System Improvements

Similar circumstance to the above BOND topic. Councilperson Bialkowski commended the City crews for showing up over the holiday weekend to address a water situation and noted they had done a super job. Council agreed to move the item forward.

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Conference Meeting adjourned at 7:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Heidi J. Parker
Clerk-Treasurer**

01/28/2019