

CITY OF BATAVIA – CONFERENCE MINUTES

MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2019

Present were Council President Jankowski and Councilpersons Bialkowski, Viele, Briggs, Pacino, McGinnis, Tabelski, and Christian. Councilperson Canale arrived at 7:10 PM.

Call to Order

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

Public Comments

Deb Kerr-Rosenbeck, 13 Lewis Ave, noted that she was the chair of the advisory board for the Community Garden and they were expanding the bed because they leased all the beds last year. She noted they were looking for new board members and may change the meeting times to better accommodate the members. She noted that beds would be rebuilt and replaced on the Day of Caring on May 22nd and the opening day of the garden was May 25th. She also explained that the garden gives back flowers and vegetables and she appreciates the assistance of the City. She is hoping the garden will soon be self-sufficient.

Council Response to Public Comments

Council President Jankowski suggested Mrs. Rosenbeck request to be on the agenda next time she wants to present information about the Community Garden so she doesn't have to be limited to the 5 minutes for public comments.

Communications

Kiwanis requested to hold an Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 20th at 9:00am in Centennial Park. Council approved.

Brighton Securities requested to hold a shred day on Friday, May 31st from 12:00 – 3:00pm at 212 E Main St parking lot. The community could bring documents to be shredded for free. Council approved.

GLOW YMCA submitted an application for the Corporate Cup on Thursday, August 1st at 6:00pm in Centennial Park to raise funds for the GLOW YMCA. Council approved.

GO ART! requested to hold their 41st Annual Picnic in the Park on Thursday, July 4th from 11:00am – 5:00pm in Centennial Park. Council approved.

TVFCU submitted an application for a 5K/10K Walk/Run on May 5th at 8:45am starting and ending at the credit union drive-thru area. Council approved.

YWCA requested to hold a Rally to Stand Against Racism on Sunday, April 28th from 1:00 – 2:30pm outside the entrance to City Hall. Council approved.

Council President's Report

Council President Jankowski announced the next regular City Council Business meeting to be held on Monday, April 8, 2019 at 7:00pm at the City Hall Council Board Room, 2nd Floor, City Centre.

Council President Jankowski noted the City was looking for a couple of Councilmembers to be on the community awards selection committee. Councilpersons Viele, Pacino and Briggs volunteered to be on the committee.

Lions Park Fast Pitch Softball Scoreboard Presentation

Matt Landers noted that they raised enough money to be able to purchase a scoreboard and i-beams and looking for assistance from the City with the installation at Lions Park. Mr. Landers noted they were still fundraising and excited by all the support they have received. He noted they received a grant to put in a new full field and wanted to make sure Council would give their approval of the City putting in in-kind service. Councilperson Christian thought it would be great if we could do this. Councilperson Bialkowski asked what was involved with the power hook up. Mr. Landers noted that that was what the City would assist with.

City of Batavia Revolving Loan Fund Agreement

Rachael Tabelski, Director of Economic Development, noted that she would like to amend the 1997 revolving loan fund agreement to allow the fund to offer grants as well as loans. Councilperson Christian felt it was a great idea. Councilperson Bialkowski asked if the grant size would be limited to \$30,000 like the loans. Mrs. Tabelski said the grant would not be limited and would be determined on a case-by-case basis. She also noted that Council would make the final decision.

Batavia Opportunity Zone Fund Grant Agreement Presentation

Mrs. Tabelski and the two principals from Urban Vantage, Richard Rogers and Travis Gordon, spoke a bit about an opportunity zone. Mr. Rogers explained that opportunity zones are areas where projects can be developed within a City. Mr. Gordon noted that they were also urban planners. Mrs. Tabelski noted that she met them when there were working with the Carr's project and thought an opportunity zone fund would be a great way to move the City forward. She noted that only qualified census tracts would be eligible for the funds and those would be Wards 3 and 6 and they would benefit from small development projects. Mrs. Tabelski explained that investors would put their capital gains into a fund and then they would realize a tax benefit for that investment. She noted that the City should participate to help revitalize some of the distressed areas of the City. She noted that if the amendment to the loan fund agreement is approved, she would be requesting a \$20,000 grant from the revolving loan fund to get this opportunity zone fund going and Urban Vantage would be putting in the balance of the total initial cost of \$26,500 because they think there is a lot of opportunity in Batavia. Mr. Rogers noted that they would identify several projects to see which would be most viable and the next step would be to create the fund and identify projects. He stated that there may be local investors as some people have

already expressed interest. Councilperson Christian asked what the time frame was to set this up. Mrs. Tabelski noted that the fund would need to be established and get some capital to get up and running. Councilperson Viele thought it was great and asked if it could expand into other wards. Mr. Rogers noted that the boundaries were set by the opportunity zones. Councilperson Briggs thought it was an excellent step towards revitalizing the City. Council agreed to move the item forward.

Residency Waiver Requests – Police Department

Chief Heubusch noted that there were two officers requesting a residency waiver and both were for personal/financial reasons. Councilperson Briggs supported the waiver stating that if they don't sleep here, so what. Councilperson Christian noted that she supported it wholeheartedly. Councilperson Bialkowski asked how far away they were. Chief Heubusch noted that state law required they live in at least an adjoining county. Council President Jankowski asked why not just do this for all City employees. He felt that if we wanted the best employees then why limit ourselves to Genesee County residents. Councilperson McGinnis felt that making it uniform for all was the way it should be and agreed with the Council President. Council President Jankowski noted that department heads would be on a case-by-case basis. Councilperson Tabelski noted that the residency requirements are in the Charter so may need to amend the Charter to get those changes. Mr. Van Nest didn't suggest a blanket waiver but rather the subject could be reviewed and spend time to make sure the changes are made within the law. Councilperson Bialkowski felt there may be a need to discuss the change with department heads to see if they are in favor as some employees could live as far away as 1.5 hours in good weather. He was concerned that some might not be able to make it in to clear City roads if the roads they are coming from are bad. Council agreed to move the item forward for the police officers. Council President Jankowski also confirmed that Council was in favor of directing the City Manager to look into making residency requirements in line with state law and to just look at changes to the Code at this point. He felt the City was limiting themselves from getting the best people.

Charter Communications (Time Warner) Access User Agreement

Mr. Moore noted that in order to continue to have meetings shown on public access, Charter needs an agreement in place. Councilperson Canale thought we already had that in place. Mr. Van Nest noted that parts were in the agreement we already have but this is a more detailed agreement. Council agreed to move the item forward.

Youth Bureau Facility Lease Agreement

Jocelyn Sikorski, Youth Bureau Director, noted that this was an agreement with City Church for relocation of the Youth Bureau to the old St. Anthony's. She noted that it explains the responsibilities of each party. Mr. Van Nest noted that this was a unique lease agreement and everyone seems to be in agreement with the terms. Councilperson Bialkowski asked how much the City's portion of the lease was. Mrs. Sikorski noted that there was no cost difference from previously and was probably going to be less because of the partnership with the YMCA. Council President Jankowski asked what would happen with the old Youth Bureau. Mrs. Sikorski noted that the school would take it over and the

Community Garden would remain there. Council agreed to move the item forward.

MOU with YMCA for Operation of Youth Center

Mrs. Sikorski that this was the agreement with the YMCA for operation and oversight of Teen City and they would help with lease expense. Council agreed to move the item forward.

Department of Public Works Surplus for Disposal

Matt Worth, Director of Public Works, noted that two pieces of equipment were scheduled for replacement in the upcoming budget. Mr. Worth asked to declare the old equipment surplus so they could be traded in towards the purchase of the new equipment. Council agreed to move the item forward.

Municipal Solutions for General Financial Services

Mr. Moore noted that Municipal Solutions is the company that the City works with for bonds and BANs and this would be a two year agreement for general services similar to what was in place in the past. Mr. Moore noted they help the City out with debt capacity as well and recommended moving it forward. Councilperson Tabelski noted that he works with the company as well and strongly suggests renewing the relationship with them. Council agreed to move the item forward.

384E Retirement Benefit

Mr. Moore noted that the City wants to be able to offer this retirement benefit to firefighters. Chief Napolitano noted that the window to offer this is usually one month per year and the time for this year is now. Council agreed to move it item forward.

AFSCME Tentative Agreement

Mr. Moore noted that if approved, this agreement would provide a 2.5% raise per year for five years and other non-monetary items. Councilperson Christian noted that if you add it all up it's over \$85,000 and asked if we had enough to cover that. Mr. Moore noted that we have enough in next year's budget and it's not all paid out next year. Council President Jankowski noted that we would know going forward how much would need to be budgeted each year. Council agreed to move the item to the special business meeting immediately following.

Pedestrian Way Sidewalk Project

Mr. Worth noted that the project is ready for construction, federal construction funds are now released and bids went out. He noted that bids would be open in early April and he would bring those back to Council in late April. Mr. Worth explained that the project would be done through the summer including a new gravel pathway in Centennial Park and audible upgrades to traffic signals. Council President Jankowski asked if the issue of gravel causing slippery sidewalks during rain events would be addressed. Mr. Worth noted

that the issue was addressed in the design plan.

Council President Jankowski asked about the bids on the City Centre roof. Mr. Moore noted that bids came in high because of a couple of big wind storms that caused more issues. Mr. Worth noted they were working on a resolution that would work for the City.

Approved Use of Facilities Reserve

Mr. Moore noted that half of the carpet project was for upstairs and the other for downstairs. He noted that the auditors requested that we show an authorization for the upstairs in order for it to be in the appropriate year. Council agreed to move the item forward.

Home Rule Request Special Legislation Forty Year Sales Tax

Mr. Moore stated that he appreciated Mr. Van Nest working with the County attorney on this legislation and that this was the next step in the process. Councilperson Tabelski noted that during the GAM meeting they conducted a straw poll to see who was in favor of the agreement and nine supported it, eight opposed, two abstained and there were two who didn't vote. Council agreed to move the item to the special business meeting immediately following.

* * *

Conference Meeting adjourned at 8:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Heidi J. Parker
Clerk-Treasurer**