

# **CITY OF BATAVIA – CONFERENCE MINUTES**

## **MONDAY, August 12, 2019**

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

### **Call to Order**

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

### **Public Comments**

John Roach, 116 Grandview Terr., said that Rachael Tabelski should combine the Assistant City Manager's position with the Economic Development position, to save taxpayers approximately, \$75,000 per year. Mr. Roach noted that Sally Kuzon had combined duties as the Assistant Manager and Director of Public Works.

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

Council President Jankowski noted that Rachael Tabelski was not previously employed by the City of Batavia, while employed with the BDC. He additionally noted that the City does fund the BDC to some degree. Councilperson Bialkowski acknowledged that other department heads had carried the load in the interim of hiring and manager and assistant.

### **Communications**

Sunny Mall Inc. submitted a liquor license application. There was no objection from the Police Department. Council approved.

The Batavia Jaycees requested to hold a 5K run/walk on Monday, September 2 at 9 AM. The race will start and end at MacArthur Drive. Council approved.

The Alzheimer's Association is looking to host a walk on Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup> from 9 AM - Noon at 278 Bank Street. Council approved.

John Kennedy submitted an application for a Color Run on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 9AM. The race starts at 10 AM at 166 Vine Street. Council approved.

Batavia Rotary is requesting to hold a 5K run on Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM at 65 Harvester Avenue. This is the Trick or Trot 5K and should be done by 7:30 PM. Council approved.

## **Council President's Report**

Council President Jankowski announced the next regular City Council Business meeting to be held on Monday, September 9, 2019 at 7:00pm at the City Hall Council Board Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, City Centre.

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

Council agreed to move the item forward.

## **Fill Future Vacancies – Police Officer Positions**

Chief Heubusch said that the Police Department is trying to add 2 police officer positions to fill anticipated vacancies with two pending retirements. He noted that the projected cost savings from current vacancies in this fiscal year is \$100,000. He said that would leave a margin of approximately \$13,000 after the additional \$87,000 expense of 2 additional police officers. He also noted that it takes approximately one year from date of hire to when the officer goes out on a shift alone.

Council agreed to move the item forward.

## **General Fund Debt Service Reserve**

City Manager, Martin Moore explained that the City had received a bond to purchase equipment, and that while the price of the equipment was known the costs associated with the bond were estimated. He noted that the City had borrowed \$1,358.70 more than needed, which had earned interest totaling \$30.34. He then said that NYS requires this excess bond revenue to be placed into a Debt Service Reserve Fund and budgeted in the next fiscal year to be used for debt payment.

Council agreed to move the item forward

## **Police Traffic Services Grant 2020**

Chief Heubusch said that the police department had been awarded a grant totaling \$10,500 to participate in the statewide Police Traffic Services Program.

Council agreed to move the item forward.

## **DRI Contract with New York State, Department of State**

Public Works Director, Matthew Worth said that a contract with the Department of State was required to secure the DRI funding for the Jackson Square project. He noted that the project was designed to enhance the enjoyment of the area improving the street surface, lighting, and other amenities during events. City Attorney, George VanNest said that the DOS contract requires various milestones to be met and approved.

Council agreed to move the item forward.

### **Rehabilitation of Redfield Pillars**

Mr. Worth said that the project was advertised for public bid on August 1<sup>st</sup>, with a bid opening on August 27, 2019. He noted that a recommendation for the award would be provided to Council for the September 9, 2019 meeting. He said that construction would most likely begin this fall or spring of 2020 depending on contractors schedules and weather. Councilperson Christian said that she didn't like the XXX's if the project goes over the \$70,000 budgeted.

Council agreed to move the item forward.

### **Permission to Amend Resolution #90-2019 Acceptance of Funds and Amend Youth Bureau Budget For YMCA Contributions to Teen City**

Youth Center, Executive Director, Jocelyn Sikorski said that she was looking to amend Resolution #90-2019 amending the telephone budget line to reflect the reduction from \$249 down to \$160. She also requested to allocate the balance of funds into the Small Equipment line.

Council agreed to move the item forward.

### **Batavia Revolving Loan Fund Grant Award – (BOA) Cedar Street Sales & Rental**

Rachael Tabelski said that Guy Clark, Cedar Street Sales & Rental, at 111 Cedar Street was requesting a \$20,000 grant from the Batavia Revolving Fund Grant Program to support a 6,000 square foot build. She noted that with the grant Guy Clark would be able to add an attractive and functional front porch facade to his new building at his Cedar Street location. Councilperson Bialkowski said that abatements have been applied with the 10 year PILOT. Council President Jankowski said that the project scoring for readiness, city priorities, visual impact and economic impact had averaged 60 out of 100. Councilperson Christian asked about those defaulting in repayment of grant monies and would like to see a more inclusive history.

Council agreed to move the item forward.

### **Batavia Revolving Loan Fund Grant Award – (BOA) Valle & Lawrence**

Rachael Tabelski said that Stephen Valle and Carrie & John Lawrence, 242 Ellicott Street were requesting \$20,000 grant from the Batavia Revolving Fund Grant Program to support a 3,400 square foot building renovation project. She noted that the building datef back to 1880 and is currently assessed at \$99,000. She said that the project is located in the BID district, the Rt. 63 redevelopment corridor, and is in a flood zone area. She noted that with additional grant funding they are committed to completing the entire facade and apartment renovation project.

Council agreed to move the item forward.

### **National Grid Grant Acceptance – City Centre Campus**

Rachael Tabelski said that the City of Batavia had been awarded a National Grid grant of \$165,000 that will be used to enhance the City Centre Urban Renovation Capital Improvement and Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) project. She noted that the City will undertake major transformative improvements to the City Centre. She also noted that the grant is a 3:1 matching grant that will be matched with committed City funds and several other sources of grant funding.

Council agreed to move the item forward.

### **Edward Byrne Memorial JAG Grant Application**

Chief Heubusch said he would like to file an Edward Byrne Memorial JAG Federal grant application for the purpose of adding an additional Detective position for four years. He noted that this would address the narcotics issues. He said that the Detective would be assigned to the Monroe County DEA Drug Task Force. He noted that the DEA Task Force would target the larger importers of narcotics to our region and focus on long-term investigations. He said the grant is non-matching funds and the rough budget for the application is approximately \$580,000 over a four-year period.

Council agreed to move the item forward.

### **Letter of Support – Ellicott Station Housing Development**

Mr. Moore said that he was writing a letter of support for the Ellicott Station housing Development project. He noted that the project would positively impact the City by providing mixed-income housing in the heart of the City. Councilperson Christian said she was not in agreement. Council President Jankowski suggested that Council let the letter go through the process. Councilperson Bialkowski said that the property continues to be an eyesore. Council President Jankowski said he would have the property looked at. Mr. Worth said that citations had been issued.

Council agreed to move the item forward.

### **Residency Waiver Request**

Chief Napolitano said that he was requesting a residency waiver for Firefighter Ferdinando Papalia be extended to September 30<sup>th</sup>, and move forward with the permanent waiver at the upcoming meeting on the 9th. Mr. Moore said that in the future we should make sure the individual hired is living in the City. Chief Napolitano said that he did feel it was not appropriate for the City to cite one individual vs another when granting waivers. Chief Napolitano said he felt it was fair to grant the residency waiver to this firefighter, as family issues are creating a hardship for this employee. Council President Jankowski said that Council should move forward with the resolution for now, but look into the waiver process in the future. Councilperson Bialkowski said that ten years from now the employee could still not reside in the City, and that it is never too late to look into the waiver process.

George VanNest said that Council should look at the procedural issues of the waiver process so that it is uniform across the board. Council President Jankowski said that there are never any assurances that employees won't move from one location to another after being granted a waiver. Councilperson Briggs said that she supported the waiver.

Council agreed to move the item forward.

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**Conference Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Aimslee M. Cassidy  
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer**

08/12/2019