

CITY OF BATAVIA – CONFERENCE MINUTES

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2019

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

In attendance from the City of Batavia were Matt Worth, Chief Napolitano, Chief Heubusch, Rachael Tabelski, Andrew Maguire, and Lisa Neary.

Call to Order

Council President Jankowski called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Councilperson Bialkowski led a prayer for the military during the holiday season and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments

Rachel Curtin, 22 Richmond Ave, thanked Council for the work they do but felt that semi-trucks were a big problem in our City, especially on Rt 98 and Main St. She noted that she hears them throughout the day and they are not local deliveries but trucks driving through the City. She asked Council to keep this in mind.

Jacob Bodway, 22 Richmond Ave, noted that he worked from home quite a bit and counted approximately three semis a minute passing through the Oak and Richmond intersection. He noted that the trucks are just using the City as a short cut and are not stopping here for any reason. He felt that Council should address the amount of semi's coming through the City because it was getting dangerous.

Sam DiSalvo, 111 Main St, spoke regarding housing and didn't think it was government's role to micromanage people's lives. He noted that it was difficult for a young person to get started in buying a home because closing costs were excessive. Mr. DiSalvo stated that Buffalo and Rochester are doing things to correct this but we were not. He suggested a landlord training class so landlords could understand what they could do legally. He also recommended a tax break for first time homebuyers if they were buying in the downtown area because now they will be investing in their community by eating and purchasing downtown. His third suggestion was to create a longevity homeowner tax break if you owned and lived in your home for a certain number of years.

Council Response to Public Comments

Councilperson Bialkowski noted that the number of rental numbers weren't exactly right and were slightly confusing but the City Manager was working on an update.

Councilperson Canale noted that the speakers were now the fourth and fifth residents he had heard express concern about the truck traffic. He was also concerned with the speed of the traffic and suggested strictly enforcing the speed limit to discourage trucks from coming down that street. Councilperson Canale stated that he was hearing this from other

young couples with young families and this is who we are trying to retain and attract to our City. He felt there had to be a solution and Council needed to look into it. Councilperson Viele asked whose idea it was to make Oak St one lane each way. Council President Jankowski responded that it was the state's decision as it's a state highway. Councilperson Pacino noted that trucks also come down North St and Councilperson Briggs suggested reaching out to Assemblyman Hawley and Senator Ranzenhoffer. Council President Jankowski suggested starting with a jake break ordinance and looking into how to divert trucks away from a state highway that was created to take truck traffic. He directed the City Manager to look into the situation and come up with suggestions. Councilperson Canale felt we could deter truck traffic by making it difficult on them by pulling them over for violations and that the other issue is the noise created by hitting the manhole covers. Councilperson Bialkowski suggested having DOT come in for a meeting and let the citizens speak directly to them about the street. Councilperson Christian asked if we could charge a toll because the trucks don't have to pay a toll once they get off the Thruway and thought maybe that was the attraction to our streets. Mr. Van Nest noted that we cannot enforce a toll on a state highway.

Councilperson Christian noted that Pathstone has a program for landlords. Council President stated that being a landlord is a business, hopefully they have legal advice, and was concerned about the cost of what we can provide. He noted that he wasn't sure who provided that service in Buffalo. Councilperson Briggs noted that she and Mr. Moore do meet with landlords and they are having a problem within the fifth ward.

Communications

GLOW Women Rise was put on the agenda prematurely as all department responses had not yet been received so there were no communications to present.

Council President's Report

Council President Jankowski announced the next regular City Council Business meeting to be held on Monday, January 13, 2020 at 7:00pm at the City Hall Council Board Room, 2nd Floor, City Centre.

Council President Jankowski made a proclamation to the first responders who were involved in the Liberty St stand-off on 11/18/19. He wanted to recognize all that were there and noted that after 20 hours officers had negotiated with the individual to control the situation. He sincerely thanked all departments that were involved and there were several law enforcement agencies in attendance.

Creek Park / Ice Rink Feasibility Presentation

Mr. Worth noted that in the spring there was a grant and private citizen funding provided to do a feasibility study for Creek Park and the ice rink. He noted that a consultant was hired to perform the study and they would provide a presentation to give some highlights before the final product is done. Bill Krueger, CSL, noted they were an advisory firm related to sports recreation facilities and were looking into an indoor, multi-sport complex. Mr. Krueger explained that they considered the market opportunity and that the City's

arena is over 40 years old with several weaknesses due to its age. He noted that utilization of the rink is lower than average on a per sheet basis and discussed facility trends. Councilperson Viele asked if most facilities were owned by a City or private business. Mr. Krueger stated that most were owned by a City but run by private business. He noted that the study doesn't support a second sheet of ice but the rink does need improvement. He explained that there is demand for an indoor court/turf facility and then reviewed three options and their costs. He felt that if you aren't going to do it right, then why do it at all and went through the recommended improvements that needed to be done soon on the current rink. Mr. Krueger reviewed the cost/benefit and noted that facilities usually run in a deficit but that their projections were conservative. He showed potential economic impact, noted that improvements should be the top priority, and that the costs don't all have to be funded by the City. Councilperson Canale asked if we started small and needed to expand was that considered in the study. Mr. Krueger noted that location is something you would want to consider and have a plan to expand. Councilperson Canale stated that our numbers are going down because our facility has a bad reputation and if we had a better place the numbers may go up.

There were no speakers.

A motion to close the public hearing was made by Councilperson Bialkowski, seconded by Councilperson Briggs, and on roll call approved 9-0.

Public Hearing on CDBG Grant Creek Park / Ice Rink Feasibility

Mr. Worth noted it was a requirement to have a public hearing to close out the grant portion of the project.

A motion to open the public hearing was made by Councilperson Bialkowski, seconded by Councilperson McGinnis, and on roll call approved 9-0.

Sam DiSalvo, 111 Main St, noted that he drives to Buffalo and Rochester for soccer leagues and if he could just walk to an indoor facility he would definitely be for it. He noted that he was in favor of a new facility and felt sure it would attract people from other areas as well.

John Roach, 116 Grandview Terrace, was not in favor of the facility and thought it sounded like what he heard about the baseball stadium. He noted that based on a study a few years ago the younger demographic was declining so why would come here? He stated that we need a new police station and, unless the County decided to go in with the City, he'd say absolutely no.

Councilperson Canale respected what Mr. Roach said but felt there was a great staff at the City who could get grants so the taxpayers wouldn't have to bear all the cost. He thought we could ask others for financing options as well.

Councilperson Pacino stated that whether we do or don't build a new facility we have to decide about the renovations to the current arena.

Council President Jankowski stated this is in the very early stages and we would see where we go from here.

Gregory Hallock, 8 Davis Ave, noted that there were many avenues the facility could go into, including the arts and culture fields, and he would offer his help on the project.

Councilperson Bialkowski noted that there were a lot of things to consider and whatever we do we can do it right from the beginning.

A motion to close the public hearing was made by Councilperson Bialkowski, seconded by Councilperson Viele, and on roll call approved 9-0.

Ratifying the Executed Amended and Restated Sales Tax Allocation Agreement Between Genesee County and the City of Batavia

Mr. Van Nest, City Attorney, noted that we were contacted by the Comptroller's Office and asked to confirm the agreement that was authorized by the City to make sure the agreement is the same as the one presented for approval. Mr. Van Nest noted that nothing had changed from the one approved by Council previously so asked Council to move the item to the business meeting immediately following and Council approved.

Council Meetings for 2020

Council President Jankowski noted that dates were reviewed through 2020 for Council meeting dates and that ceremonial oaths would be held on January 13, 2020. Council agreed to move the item to the business meeting immediately following.

Appoint Members to Various City Committees/Boards

Council was in favor of the appointees and agreed to move the item to the business meeting immediately following.

Appointing the Part-Time City Court Judge

Council agreed to move the appointment of David Saleh to part-time City Court judge to the business meeting immediately following.

Retirement Reserve Transfer

Mr. Moore explained that this was a housekeeping issue to make sure a payment was coming from the appropriate fund. Council agreed to move the item to the business meeting immediately following.

City of Batavia Revolving Loan Fund – Grant Request

Andrew Maguire, BDC Director, noted that Go Art had submitted an application for a \$20,000 grant from the revolving loan fund. Council agreed to move the item to the next meeting in January.

Additional Police Officer Position

Mr. Moore recommended approving the additional position now to get people into that position sooner. Chief Heubusch noted that it should be able to be covered under the current budget. Council agreed to move the item to the business meeting immediately following.

Amend 2019/2020 Budget Revenue and Expense Accounts – Police Station

Mr. Moore noted that it's been 13 months of work to get to this point and asking for \$50,000 from facility reserve fund for a feasibility study for a new police station. Council agreed to move the item to the business meeting immediately following.

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Conference Meeting adjourned at 8:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Heidi J. Parker
Clerk-Treasurer**