

CITY OF BATAVIA – BUDGET MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 4, 2013

A budget work session of the City Council was held Monday, February 4, 2013 at 6:00 PM in the Council Chambers, One Batavia City Centre, Batavia, New York, with Council President Buckley presiding.

Present were Council President Buckley and Councilpersons Pacino, Christian, Briggs, Canale, Cipollone, Doeringer, Hawley and Russell.

Mr. Molino explained the proposed budget amendments and noted that the decrease in the tax rate would be reduced further 16.42% or at tax rate of \$8.95 per thousand. Council President Buckley asked if it was possible to not fill the deputy chief position. Mr. Molino didn't feel the department, without that position, could handle the administrative load and operational issues.

Councilperson Cipollone asked if Vibrant Batavia's request was in the proposed changes. Mr. Molino said they were not because they it was a budget neutral item because it would be coming from contingency if approved. Mr. Molino suggested a one year contract with Vibrant Batavia and Councilperson Christian asked for reports every three months. Councilperson Hawley asked how the spending of the marketing firm would be reviewed. Mr. Molino said he would approve the spending and Councilperson Doeringer added that Vibrant Batavia would review it as well.

Mr. Molino gave examples of residential and business costs under the current refuse and recycling program compared to the proposed program. Councilperson Pacino noted that she would like a sheet that simplified how the new program worked.

Councilperson Russell made a motion to accept the proposed amendments. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Doeringer and on roll call, approved 9-0.

Councilperson Cipollone made a motion to take out the salary increase for Council. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Doeringer and discussion followed.

Councilperson Russell asked what the impact would be on the budget. Mr. Molino said about \$14,000. Councilperson Cipollone noted that given discussions already had, he couldn't justify a raise. He didn't think it was a prudent thing for Council to take at that time. Councilperson Briggs felt that the raise was moved to that budget and would go forward if they were able to find other savings and a reduction in taxes. She didn't feel it was a major impact on the budget. Councilperson Russell felt they voted in favor of it last year and that was why it was included in the 2013-2014 budget. Councilperson Christian stated that it wasn't for them but for upcoming councils. Councilperson Canale stated that he voted it down the prior year because he was brand new and wanted his constituents to feel he earned the raise. He felt Council well proved that they could work as a cohesive group, they were very bipartisan and they made key decisions in

moving the City forward. He noted that the budget was proof they could do it and could do it well. He said they definitely made forward progress and no one had said to him that Council didn't deserve the raise along with future councils. Councilperson Cipollone said he had people question the raise, he felt Council was serving because they wanted the City to be a better place, and he didn't think it was an appropriate thing to ask for. Councilperson Doeringer agreed with Councilperson Cipollone but didn't want to make the position about money. He didn't want people to take the position because they thought it was a job. Councilperson Pacino noted that someone said to her that if she didn't think she was worth \$3,500 then she should get off Council. She just said it was hard for her to take money away from other departments in the budget but give herself a raise.

On roll call, to remove the raise from the budget, the motion failed 4-5. Councilpersons Cipollone, Hawley, Doeringer and Pacino were in favor of removing the raise.

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Meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Heidi J. Parker
Clerk-Treasurer**