

CITY OF BATAVIA – CONFERENCE MINUTES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2013

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

Call to Order

Council President Buckley called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM immediately following the special business meeting.

Public Comments

Carol Grasso, 45 Oak St, thanked Council, noted that she was proud of what they had done, and explained that they didn't have six months to collect more signatures.

Diane Sochalec, 220 S. Main St., thanked Council for giving the trash topic another consideration.

Kyle Couchman, 62 Swan St., noted that he had issues with the way Council treated the public at the last meeting and felt they trampled on their first amendment rights to freedom of speech. He asked why the issue was kept from the public, they never got direct answers, and Council needed to look at their mission statement.

Susan Michalak, 17 Warren St., stated that she was speaking emotionally and not because of dollars and cents. She asked Council if they or the City Manager ever visited the group homes or had conversations with the individuals from ARC. She asked if everyone were just numbers in a computer.

Roger Martin, 309 East Ave., had mixed emotions about wanting to speak. He commended Council for taking time to serve the community to the best of their ability but didn't want them to lower one tax and raise another one. He noted that if the program was put into place, he would have a hard time forgiving those who put it upon him.

Dave O'Geen, 256 East Ave., thanked Council for listening to the constituents and asked that if they ever revisited the issue to include a citizen committee right from the start. He asked that the sound system in the council chambers be improved as well.

William Haggerty, 8 Hull Park, came to the meeting because of the love he had for the City. He was very thankful for the people in the community who treated him as a human being. He was happy the vote went the way it did and noted there was 75% unemployment among the blind. He noted that he had been fortunate to have been able to work even though he lost several jobs not because of vision but because of economics. He suggested asking ARC how much they would charge in comparison to what others may charge for trash collection.

Alex Wallace, 8 Ellicott Pl., thanked Council for keeping ARC jobs in Batavia.

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Mary Ellen Wilber, 205 Liberty St., thanked Council for their vote but was disturbed at the way the public was treated at the last meeting when the attorney said y they couldn't use their first amendment right. She felt they were speaking about services and not trying to lobby and was thinking of suing the City. She called the American Civil Liberties Union because her freedom was not going to be restricted.

Blake Elliott, 33 Ellicott Ave., was frustrated that there wasn't enough process or time to get accurate information out to the public. He thinks the costs will go up, there won't be as much of a controlled environment, and said he would continue to support Council members as needed. He offered to look at water bills, for example, and offer opportunities to make people aware of what they should be paying.

Council Response to Public Comments

Councilperson Canale noted that there was a silver lining in every cloud and thanked everyone who contacted him. He feels that the looming cloud hadn't really divided the community and that everyone who contacted him was polite and respectful.

Public Hearing – Amend Chapter 190 Entitled “Zoning”

Councilperson Briggs made a motion to open the public hearing, seconded by Councilperson Christian and all of Council was in favor. Dean Robb spoke noting that he was in the process of purchasing the property to open a glass business and hoped they would support the change. Councilperson Doeringer added that Mr. Robb had been very patient in the process and didn't see a problem with what he was asking for. Councilperson Russell made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Councilperson Briggs, and all of Council approved.

Investment Policy

Mr. Molino noted that the policy had to be adopted each year and there were no changes to the policy. Council agreed to move the item to the next business agenda.

Establishment of Capital Project

Mr. Molino noted that \$300,000 was committed for resurfacing, sidewalk improvements, etc. and the capital project needed to be established. Council agreed to move the item to the next business meeting.

Foreclosed Properties

Mr. Molino recommended moving three properties to auction and have two properties be sold to Habitat for Humanity for residential redevelopment. He suggested selling them for \$5,000 each. Council agreed to move the item to the next business agenda.

Dwyer Stadium Lease and Sublease Extension Agreement

Mr. Molino noted that they were entering into an extension with the Red Wings to allow them to continue to manage and operate at Dwyer Stadium. Councilperson Cipollone asked if the City had received confirmation of their intent to stay and Mr. Molino noted he had just spoke to them the other day and confirmed their intentions.

Cast In-Place Pipelining Bids

Sally Kuzon, Director of Public Works, noted that bid specs had come in on February 20th and they recommended awarding the bid to Allstate Power Vac. Councilperson Russell noted that the bids were all over the place and wondered if that was common and if the City had used them before. Ms. Kuzon noted that the range of bids could be where the bids were coming from and that they had not used them before but had checked with other communities and they were happy with their work. Councilperson Cipollone noted that he was interested in who the vendor was that did the Walnut Street relining. Council agreed to move the item to the next business agenda.

Committee Appointments

Councilperson Briggs noted that they had some new names added for appointment/reappointment. Council agreed to move the item to the next business agenda.

Ellicott Street Striping

Councilperson Christian noted there was a lot of congestion because of the new lanes on Ellicott Street and wanted to see if the City could meet with the State to see if they could go back to four lanes because two was terrible. Mr. Molino noted they could relay the message onto NYS.

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Conference Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Heidi J. Parker
Clerk-Treasurer**

02/25/2013