

CITY OF BATAVIA – CONFERENCE MINUTES

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2013

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

Call to Order

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

Public Comments

None.

Council Response to Public Comments

None.

Communications

The Batavia Jaycees submitted their application for a Halloween Parade on Sunday, October 27th at 1:00pm. Line up will be in front of Dan's Tire & Auto and they will proceed to Batavia's Original. Council approved.

Presentation of Financial Statements

Laura Landers, Freed Maxick, noted that she met with the audit advisory committee on September 5th to discuss the audited financial statements for fiscal year ending 3/31/13. Ms. Landers noted that the fiscal year ended with a surplus of approximately \$294,000 bringing the fund balance to over \$5,806,000. She noted that sales tax increased for that year but that Council budgeted conservatively with relation to economically sensitive issues. Ms. Landers explained that budgeted expenditures continued to be greater than actual expenditures and fund balance has increased since 2009. She noted that the water fund generated a surplus and had since 2008. She stated, however, that the sewer fund had a net deficit of approximately \$34,000. Mr. Molino noted that the City was trying to achieve a 10% unassigned fund balance and that we were currently at about 8.5%. Mr. Molino suggested putting approximately \$900,000 of the unassigned fund balance into reserves for facility, sidewalks, employee benefits accrued liability, and fire equipment. He noted that approximately \$150,000 would be put to committed fund balance (which is a step below restricted) for resurfacing of South Jackson and Otis Streets. Councilperson Doeringer asked how he came up with the \$150,000 figure. Mr. Molino noted he used mill and paving bids from Richmond and North Streets as a ballpark but noted the City could piggyback on previously bid projects. Council President Buckley recalled that eight years ago the City was in bad shape. He thanked Mr. Molino and staff along with Council in how far they had come and it was because of everyone involved.

Amendment to Verizon Lease Agreement

Mr. Molino noted that Verizon leased space from the City and wanted to upgrade their existing equipment. Council agreed to move the item forward.

NYS Archives Grant

Heidi Parker, City Clerk, noted that the City had received \$24,493 for a high-powered scanner/printer for digitization of maps and drawings. Mrs. Parker recommended Council accept the grant and amend the budget to reflect the grant funds. Council agreed to move the item forward.

Police Facility Analysis

Mr. Molino noted that \$45,000 was budgeted for a police facility analysis, the building was over 100 years old, and was the former Brisbane Mansion. He explained that it was currently in poor working condition, very choppy because of the various uses over the past few years and received 10 submittals as a result of the RFP. He noted that the analysis would look at other locations within the City for the police station, provide estimated costs and consider renovation of the current building. Councilperson Canale wanted to see suggestion of future uses of the facility if the police department moved to another location. Councilperson Christian didn't want to spend \$45,000 because they had worked so hard to get to where they were now and wanted to wait a couple of years. Council President Buckley noted that the money was part of the budget and approved of spending the money for the analysis. Councilperson Russell felt it was long overdue and the conditions of the building warranted the improvements. Mr. Molino noted that discussions had been going on since 1991. Councilperson Pacino noted that she didn't want to give anyone \$45,000 but the building was 158 years old and if they didn't do anything it may fall apart and cost the City even more. Councilperson Russell noted that he wasn't in favor of spending \$45,000 if there wasn't follow through on the project. He noted that a lot of studies had taken place but there was never any action because of them. Councilperson Briggs felt that the cost of the studies and improvements would continue to increase so putting it off would just cost more. Councilperson Cipollone stated that it was up to Council to make sure we follow through with the project. Councilperson Christian thought the police department was supposed to be in City Hall. Council approved moving the item to the next business agenda.

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Conference Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Heidi J. Parker
Clerk-Treasurer**

09/23/2013