

CITY OF BATAVIA – CONFERENCE MINUTES

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2013

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

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.

Batavia Business Improvement District Presentation

Paul Marchese, President of the BID, reported that their projects brought over 12,000 people to the downtown area over the last six months. He noted that their next event was the Taste of the Holidays on December 6th and 7th. He noted that they partnered with the City of Batavia to ensure the dumpster enclosures took place and on a new bond issue. He explained they want to build a new public market that would allow it to operate through the colder months as well. He noted that the BID recently became a 501c3 and thus a charitable organization. Councilperson Cipollone asked Mr. Marchese to expand on the public market. Mr. Marchese noted that it would be on the corner of Ellicott St and Center St and they would obtain some of the underutilized parking lot space to make a public market that had a somewhat enclosed area for the winter. Councilperson Christian asked how far the business district went on Ellicott St and Mr. Marchese said to Swan St. Councilperson Christian noted that she wanted the decorations to extend to the businesses on the corner of Ellicott and Swan St. Council President Buckley asked how being a 501c3 change the organization. Mr. Marchese noted that donations to the BID would now be tax deductible. Councilperson Canale thanked the BID for working closely with the City on the dumpster enclosure project and asked what the plans were for the Ellicott St project. Mr. Marchese explained that it was a multi-phased project including a gazebo and streetscape such as benches.

Public Comments

None.

Council Response to Public Comments

None.

Website Presentation

Lt. Robert Fix of the Fire Department and Officer Eric Hill of the Police Department presented highlights of and revealed the new City website that is scheduled to go live by the end of the year. They noted that the key outcome of the new site was to provide better community communication. They demonstrated the search function, service requests, calendar, news, and ability to report suspicious activity. They noted that the site is

intended to allow more accurate and more current information to the public. Councilperson Pacino thought it was delightful. Council President Buckley thanked the committee and Jodie Freese for all of their work on the website.

Assessment & Youth Board Appointments

Mr. Molino noted that there were vacancies that needed to be appointed. Council agreed to move the item to the next business agenda.

CDBG Housing Grant Application

Mr. Molino suggested applying for a housing rehab program for owner-occupied properties. He noted they needed a resolution to submit the application and the limit for funding would be \$24,500. He noted that the application was due the next week. Council agreed to move the item to the special business agenda.

Community Tree Management Plan Grant Application

Mr. Molino noted that the City wanted to develop a tree management plan to identify species, placement, replacement and other items relating to City trees. Council agreed to move the item forward.

Insurance Transfer

Mr. Molino noted that court case had been dismissed but there was a defense cost of approximately \$14,000. He requested a transfer from insurance reserve to cover the cost. Council approved the transfer.

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Conference Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Heidi J. Parker
Clerk-Treasurer**

11/25/2013