

# **CITY OF BATAVIA BUSINESS MINUTES JANUARY 13, 2014**

The regular business meeting of the City Council was held Monday, January 13, 2014 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers, One Batavia City Centre, Batavia, New York, with Council President Hawley presiding.

Present were Council President Hawley and Councilpersons Pacino, Briggs, Cipollone, Canale, Doeringer, Deleo, Jankowski, and Christian.

Council President Hawley called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Councilperson Briggs led the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes from the December meetings and draft monthly financial statements were approved. Councilperson Jankowski noted that the date of the next meeting from the December business minutes needed to be revised.

The Council President assigned the regular agenda items.

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## **Communications**

Pasquales Italian Eatery submitted a liquor license application. There was no objection from the police department. Council approved.

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## **Council President's Report**

Council President Hawley announced that the next regular City Council Conference Meeting would be held on Monday, January 27, 2014 at 7:00 PM at the City Hall Council Board Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, City Centre.

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## **City Attorney's Report**

Mr. Van Nest noted that they continued to work on a variety of matters including real property, easement preparation and general municipal questions as well as several other items.

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## **City Manager's Report**

Mr. Molino noted that the budget was filed in the City Clerk's Office on January 13, 2014 and the entirety of the budget focused on areas Council expressed interest in through the strategic plan including neighborhood improvement, abandoned/vacant properties and internal efficiencies. He noted that the budget reintroduced the assistant city manager position, there was an approximate \$.03 tax rate decrease, and it was comprehensive. Mr. Molino suggested a budget work session on January 21 at 6:00pm at the fire department. Councilperson Christian was worried that the city may not be able to afford the assistant city manager salary, felt we drastically needed FEMA help, and something had to be done with the abandoned and vacant properties. She liked the video surveillance, needed to address feral cats and looked forward to reviewing the budget. Councilperson Jankowski agreed about the assistant city manager. He noted that he would hate to run out and start spending the savings and felt there needed to be a strict policy regarding the surveillance equipment. Councilperson Pacino asked what the assistant city manager would do and felt something needed to be done because Mr. Molino was doing the job of both the city manager and an assistant city manager. Councilperson Briggs felt the projects of the assistant could be prioritized and then get help for those specific projects. Mr. Molino felt that there wasn't enough focus on risk management and the assistant would help with that along with the neighborhood issues that needed to be addressed. Councilperson Canale questioned that there would be a reduction in taxes even with an assistant budgeted and Mr. Molino noted that was correct and there would be no other reduction in personnel. Councilperson Christian noted there were a lot of components to flood management and that something definitely needed to be done. She noted that she wasn't against the assistant city manager but just wanted to understand the position better. Councilperson Canale asked when the last time was the City had an assistant city manager. Mr. Molino noted that he was the last assistant city manager in 2006, the position had been around for quite a while but was eliminated when the Director of Community Development was eliminated.

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## **Committee Reports**

Councilperson Deleo asked if they could have committees come in and report on what they have been working on. Councilperson Doeringer noted that committees will present to Council only when there are significant accomplishments or developments to report. Councilperson Briggs noted that Council representatives on boards and committees will report on what their boards are working on. Councilperson Pacino noted that she will ask the BID what they want her to bring back to Council and reports accordingly.

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## Public Comments

Lisa Whitehead, 20 Ellsworth Ave, welcomed the newly elected Councilmembers. She felt that the assistant city manager was not needed and that the City had run just fine without one. She wanted to see Council address ward issues so an assistant city manager didn't need to and she suggested businesses provide free wi-fi instead of the City.

Jim Rosenbeck, 13 Lewis Ave, offered his congratulations to the at-large members, noted that the City had come a long way but there were still big challenges ahead. He didn't expect Council to have all the ideas but wanted to hear thoughts and ideas for a more open government. He suggested Council take more risks, felt the budget should be a vision of where they wanted to be in the next five to ten years, and wanted Council to look for opportunities for more shared services. He recommended getting out of the mall business and encouraged public input.

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## Council Responses to Public Comments

Councilperson Deleo thanked the speakers for coming and wished more would partake in public comments. He noted that Council couldn't do it by themselves.

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## Unfinished Business

None.

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## New Business

### **#3-2014 RESOLUTION TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO VARIOUS CITY COMMITTEES/ BOARDS**

## Motion of Councilperson Briggs

**WHEREAS**, certain vacancies exist on various City Committees/Boards.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Council of the City of Batavia that the following appointments be made:

**Historic Preservation Commission**

Ashley Bateman

December 31, 2016

**Youth Board**

Connor Logsdon

August 31, 2014

David Twichell

December 31, 2015

Pier Cipollone

December 31, 2014

Brooks Hawley

December 31, 2014

**Seconded by Councilperson Christian and on roll call approved 9-0.**

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**Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Heidi J. Parker  
Clerk-Treasurer**