

CITY OF BATAVIA – CONFERENCE MINUTES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2014

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

Call to Order

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

Public Comments

Richard Richmond, 20 Washington Ave, noted that the City had infrastructure problems like most cities, sidewalks that need replacement and it was the least paid employees who made the improvements not an assistant city manager. He asked where we could get the money to pay for everything and thanked the Council members who voted against the assistant position. Mr. Richmond felt the assistant would be wonderful for Mr. Molino but not so wonderful for City taxpayers. He noted that consultants were expensive but were also experts in what they did. He requested the yes voters reconsider and look into the actual cost of consultants.

Paula Miller, 15 Pearl St Ext, noted that she was a native Batavian and that one of the reasons she came back to Batavia was because it seemed that it was on the right track. She noted that Vibrant Batavia spent thousands of volunteer hours to meet goals identified in the grant funded czb report. She urged Council to not be shortsighted and continue to fund Vibrant Batavia so they could continue with their success.

Marty MacDonald, 210 E Main St, shared his thoughts as to why the Vibrant Batavia committee did what it did. He noted that no one is looking for more things to fill up their already full plates but rather looking for a better community. He explained that Vibrant Batavia modified the czb report to focus on goals they could accomplish and wanted to promote Batavia as a vibrant community. He felt that if there was ever a time Batavia needed to stand together it was now.

Council Response to Public Comments

None.

2013/2014 Employee of the Year Award - Firefighter Charles Hammon

Councilperson Briggs presented Chuck Hammon with the Employee of the Year Award because of his work with the child safety seat program and that he consistently goes above and beyond. Mr. Hammon stated that it was an honor to work for the City of Batavia and that everyone should be proud of the extremely talented people in Batavia.

Event Application – Kiwanis Club 5K Run

The Kiwanis Club submitted an application for a 5K run on July 4th before the Picnic in the Park event. The race will start and end at Centennial Park at 9:00am to promote awareness of autism. Council approved.

Public Hearing

Ordinance #001-2014 – 2014/2015 Budget

Councilperson Christian made a motion to open the public hearing, the motion was seconded by Councilperson Canale and on roll call, approved 9-0. John Roach, 116 Grandview Terrace, asked if there was enough money in the contingency to cover the overtime for public works because of the harsh winter. He also noted that Vibrant Batavia had about \$10,000 left over that they hadn't yet spent and wasn't in favor of giving them more. He suggested a one-to-one option where if they raised a dollar the City would give them a dollar. He noted that he still felt the assistant city manager was a bad idea and thought a consultant would be ready to go and would save a lot of time getting up to speed especially when dealing with the FEMA issue.

Councilperson Briggs made a motion to close the public hearing, the motion was seconded by Councilperson Cipollone and on roll call, approved 9-0.

Local Law No. 1 of the Year 2014 – Amend §184-41 (A), (B), (C), and (O) of the Code of the City of Batavia to Establish New Water Rates, Meter Fees and a Capital Improvement Fee

Councilperson Jankowski made a motion to open the public hearing, the motion was seconded by Councilperson Cipollone and on roll call, approved 9-0. There were no speakers.

Councilperson Christian made a motion to close the public hearing, the motion was seconded by Councilperson Canale and on roll call, approved 9-0.

Committee Appointment

Mr. Molino noted that Councilperson Doeringer would like to be appointed to GAM. Council agreed to move the item to the next business agenda.

Water – Wastewater Chemical Bids

Ms. Kuzon noted that her department sent out a request for bids on February 14th and they were due back on February 28th. She noted they would recommend the lowest responsible bidder to Council at the next meeting. Council agreed to move the item to the next business agenda.

Brownfield Clean-Up Program (BCP) and Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA)

Mr. Molino provided Council with a summary of both programs and noted that the final plan would be coming to Council in the next couple of weeks. He noted that state

funding may be discontinued and hoped to have a resolution in support of brownfield funds at the March 10th meeting. Councilperson Christian asked if Wiard Plow was a brownfield site and Mr. Molino noted that it could be. Councilperson Jankowski asked if the Bank St property would be affected and Mr. Molino noted that it would not because it was a separate site being reviewed by DEC. Council agreed to move the item to the next business agenda.

Zoning Amendment – 69 Clinton St

Mr. Molino noted that the planning board reviewed the change and recommended making the zoning change. Mr. Molino noted that an ordinance change would come to Council at the next business meeting. Council approved.

Foreclosed Properties – Habitat for Humanities

Mr. Molino noted that Habitat for Humanities was interested in 141 Liberty St and 11 South Spruce St and would like to take these properties off the auction list. Mr. Molino noted that the properties would be transferred to Batavia Housing Authority who then turns it over to Habitat. Councilperson Christian noted that she was happy to see that both properties were in her ward. Council agreed to move the item to the next business agenda.

Inter-Agency Agreement – Public Safety and Public Service Radio Communications

Chief Heubusch noted that the agreement was a standard agreement for a change over in radios and that it established who was responsible for various aspects of the equipment. Councilperson Jankowski asked if everyone would be able to get a radio and Chief Heubusch noted they would and that they were going live Wednesday morning. Council agreed to move the item to the next business agenda.

Vibrant Batavia Request

Mr. Molino noted that they started later than expected, didn't spend all of the money designated to them, and suggested carrying over \$10,000 of the unspent money and funding \$35,000 from contingency into next year's budget. Councilperson Cipollone wanted to confirm that it would be budget neutral and Mr. Molino agreed. Councilperson Doeringer noted that their primary concern and directive was neighborhood revitalization and that all of the money given to Vibrant Batavia (VB) by Council went to that area and not the story telling or centennial celebration planning. He noted that the celebrations would be paid for by sponsors and advertising dollars. He also explained that VB wouldn't dictate to a neighborhood what they are going to do but rather let the neighborhoods initiate their own plans and VB would help facilitate. Councilperson Pacino asked what type of things VB would be co-sponsoring and suggesting getting the City Historian and other story tellers together to share their stories. Councilperson Doeringer noted they would be both new and pre-existing events. Councilperson Deleo asked if there was a deal with VB for three years. Mr. Molino noted the City agreed to fund them for the first year and see what milestones were reached to determine future funding. Councilperson Deleo thought VB would take the lead on the centennial

celebration and wondered what the \$45,000 would be for. Councilperson Doeringer noted they had a leader for the celebration and VB would help promote the event. Councilperson Canale confirmed that VB only spent \$35,000 of the \$45,000 the City gave them last year and Mr. Molino agreed explaining that all expenditures were approved by him and it wasn't expected that they would spend the remaining \$10,000 by the end of the fiscal year. Councilperson Jankowski asked how they were able to fundraise if they were a City committee. Mr. Molino explained that the money went through Neighborworks which was a not-for-profit organization who handled the money and provided reports to him on a monthly basis. Councilperson Christian asked what VB did with the \$22,000 they collected through fundraising. Councilperson Doeringer noted it was put back into the Shop Around cards and Vibrant Times publications. Councilperson Jankowski asked if the printing was done locally and Councilperson Doeringer said that when possible it was. Council agreed to move the item to the next business meeting.

Executive Session ... Real Property

MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion of Councilperson Pacino

WHEREAS, Article 7, Section 105(1)(h), of the Public Officer's Law permits the legislative body of a municipality to enter into Executive Session to discuss "...the proposed acquisition, sale, or lease of real property or the proposed acquisition of securities, or sale or exchange of securities held by such public body, but only when publicity would substantially affect the value thereof...".

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of Batavia, that upon approval of this Motion, the City Council does hereby enter into Executive Session.

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

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Conference Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Heidi J. Parker
Clerk-Treasurer**

02/24/2014