

CITY OF BATAVIA – CONFERENCE MINUTES

TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2014

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

Call to Order

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

Public Hearings

- a. Local Law No. 2 – A local law amending section 1-4, Wards, of the City Charter of the City of Batavia

A motion was made by Councilperson Christian to open the public hearing, it was seconded by Councilperson Cipollone and approved 9-0 on roll call.

John Roach, 116 Grandview Terr, congratulated Mr. Molino on the proposed changes in the ward boundaries. He felt there was minimal disruption of the current wards, it was well thought out and felt no one should have any issues with the changes.

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

- b. Step II Nomination Study for the Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) Plan

A motion was made by Councilperson Jankowski to open the public hearing, it was seconded by Councilperson Canale and approved 9-0 on roll call.

There were no speakers on this topic.

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

Public Comments

John Roach, 116 Grandview Ter, noted that there was a request by the BID that the City of Batavia help pay for the flowers throughout the City of Batavia and he suggested throwing the request away. He felt the BID should have asked for the funds during budget time, didn't think the City had to give them money at that stage of the game and if they did, may open it up for other companies to request money.

Lisa Whitehead, 20 Ellsworth Ave, wanted to bring to Councils' attention the crater in the back of the Tops parking lot. She wasn't sure if it was City property but something had to

be done and wanted it looked into.

Greg Bruggman, 61 Walnut St, was currently the chair of an independent living organization and suggested creating a committee to research problems and solutions to the disabled population to support their independent living. He noted that the Town of Amherst had a committee like this, noted it had been successful, and thought it would be beneficial to individuals who were disabled in the City of Batavia.

Council Response to Public Comments

Councilperson Christian asked if the crater behind Tops was owned by the City of Batavia. Mr. Molino noted that it was not the City's but the owners would be contacted. Councilperson Christian also noted that Council President Hawley, Councilperson Jankowski and her attended an independent living meeting and would bring up issues at the next meeting. Councilperson Briggs asked what steps needed to be taken to set up a committee. Mr. Molino noted that the committee would be established through resolution and it seemed like there were enough model committees out there to help get started. Councilperson Pacino noted that she and Councilperson Briggs would like to be on the committee, the flowers were frivolous but the BID had been asking for them for at least 90 days. She asked everyone to keep in mind they were asking for \$1,900 to make the City pretty and reminded them that they put in \$10,000 towards the dumpster enclosure to help out the City. Councilperson Cipollone mentioned that GCC had a seminar about improved living and that their literature could be helpful for the independent living committee.

Communications

Genesee Cancer Assistance requested to hold a 5K run on Saturday, June 7th through the City of Batavia starting and ending at Dewitt Recreation Park. Council approved.

Notre Dame was looking to hold their graduation on Saturday, May 31st from 7:00 – 9:00pm. They would be closing Richmond Ave from Woodrow Rd to Union St. Council approved.

The Batavia Business Improvement District submitted an application for Summer in the City to be held on August 16th from 11:00am – 9:00pm on Main, Jackson, Bank, Center and School Streets. Council approved.

F/Y 2013-14 Budget Adjustments / Parking & Dumpster Fee Transfer

Mr. Molino noted that each year there are adjustments to close out the prior fiscal year and they are needed to balance the budget. Mr. Molino reviewed each adjustment and explained how they came about including legal fees, CHIPs funding, parking lot reserve, and worker's compensation. He noted that the total cost from contingency would be approximately \$81,000. Councilperson Christian noted that she always cringed when she saw the legal budget but had met with Mr. Molino and they discussed an old legal situation that cost several hundred thousand dollars and it had nothing to do with the current City attorney. Council agreed to move the item to the next business meeting.

Habitat for Humanity – South Spruce St

Mr. Molino reminded Council that two properties had been taken off the auction block and transferred to Habitat – 11 South Spruce St and 141 Liberty St. He explained that unfortunately the Liberty St lot was very narrow and not an area that would work well for Habitat. The resolution would transfer the 11 South Spruce property to Habitat. Councilperson Christian noted that she had joined Habitat for Humanity this year and felt it was well worth her time and effort, it was a great group and they really helped people. Councilperson Pacino noted that there was a house on North St that was re-done by Habitat and, what was previously an eyesore, was beautiful. Council agreed to move the item to the next business meeting.

Grant Opportunity

Mr. Molino gave Council information regarding three grant opportunities and noted that the City could get extra points if Council passed a resolution to apply for the grants. Council agreed to move the item to the next business meeting.

BID Funding Request

Councilperson Canale noted that he had been working closely with Councilperson Pacino, Council President Hawley and BID to improve the downtown area and one outcome was the BID partnering with the City of Batavia to provide money for the dumpster enclosure. He noted that the BID didn't have to do that and thought that the City could now help out the BID with things like money for the flowers. He noted that the beautification of downtown was to help attract businesses and residents to downtown. He also thought that to show the City's willingness to partner with the BID the City should put their money where their mouth was. He explained that it didn't really have anything to do with the budget and came up after the fact by trying to further improve the partnership with the BID and other companies to beautify downtown and spend money on something that would benefit everyone. Councilperson Cipollone asked what line it would come out of in the budget. Mr. Molino noted that he would recommend contingency. Councilperson Cipollone stated the BID should be sure to maintain the plants they have put out as some he noted were dead. Councilperson Pacino explained that they want people to drive through downtown and thus wanted to make the City look pretty. Council agreed to move the item to the next business meeting.

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Conference Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Heidi J. Parker
Clerk-Treasurer**

05/27/2014