

# **CITY OF BATAVIA – CONFERENCE MINUTES**

## **MONDAY, JUNE 23, 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 Jankowski led the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Public Comments**

Eric Saluste, 5 Walnut St, noted that he had a trespassing issue behind 1 through 9 Walnut St with kids drinking, etc and was asking the City for help. He suggested a fence or no trespassing sign and noted that the police had been twice and the kids were getting more aggressive when being asked to leave.

### **Council Response to Public Comments**

Councilperson Briggs stated that she knew Ms. Kuzon was looking into the situation but wanted to be kept aware of what was going on as well. Councilperson Canale asked if the property line went all the way to the Tonawanda Creek and Mr. Saluste said that it did.

### **Communications**

The YMCA requested to hold free fitness classes on Mondays from July 14<sup>th</sup> through August 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in Austin Park. The classes would be given by certified, trained instructors. Council approved.

### **Audit Advisory Committee**

Mr. Molino noted that the positions were re-advertised and four responses were received. He noted that three individuals were recommended for the committee. Council agreed to move the item to the next business meeting.

### **ADA & Fair Housing**

Mr. Molino noted that there were certain state and federal requirements the City had to adopt in relation to receiving grants. He explained they weren't relevant to the funding the City was requesting but it was required and there was no leeway with it. Councilperson Jankowski suggested assigning the Assistant City Manager as the Fair Housing officer to free up Mr. Molino's time. Councilperson Doeringer stated that Mr. Molino ran the City, knew his workload and could appoint whoever he wanted. Councilperson Pacino asked if it would be unreasonable to give the position to the Assistant and if there were a lot of complaints. Mr. Molino noted that there had been no complaints and he dealt with the grants and that was why he was better suited for the job. Councilperson Cipollone agreed

with Councilperson Doeringer that it was Mr. Molino's job to assign tasks and didn't think it was Council's job to assign duties to any staff. Councilperson Jankowski noted that Council voted on the resolutions to appoint and thus they were responsible. Councilperson Christian asked Mr. Molino's opinion and he responded that when looking at these type of responsibilities, workload and need is considered and jobs are assigned based on what seems appropriate.

Councilperson Jankowski made a motion to assign the Assistant City Manager as the Fair Housing Officer, the motion was seconded by Councilperson Deleo and on roll call, failed 2-7. Councilpersons Jankowski and Deleo were in favor of the change.

### **Abandoned Property Neighborhood Relief Act**

Mr. Molino noted that he spoke with NYCOM and Senator Ranzenhofer's staff and didn't think the act had passed yet, there were several components to it, and it would probably come up again at the fall session. Councilperson Pacino noted that she and Council President Hawley met with a lot of people in Ward 2 and was very impressed with how many people were concerned with property issues. Councilperson Christian thought it was a great idea to set criteria for renters and wanted to see if there was something they could do locally if the act wasn't going to pass state-wide. She suggested a letter showing the City support for the law. Councilperson Briggs also noted that feral cats were a big problem and that when people abandoned a property they often left behind cats. Council President Hawley asked what kind of teeth the Zombie act had and Mr. Molino noted that it came down to willingness and ability to enforce the law. Councilperson Jankowski stated that it would give banks the ability to come in and clean up properties if they wanted to. Mr. Molino noted that a resolution would be drawn up in support of the act.

Councilperson Christian noted that she had a meeting at 400 Towers and they came up with a list of things they would like to have addressed and accomplished. For example, she noted they wanted an automatic door for those in wheelchairs, the halls needed ventilation or a fan, and the snow had to be maintained so they could get in and out. On a separate note, she stated that there was a house on Williams St that had a rooming house sign, she didn't think there was supposed to be a rooming house on Williams St, and asked that it be checked into.

Councilperson Canale asked to have some options presented to Council with respect to the issue on Walnut St discussed during public comments.

Council President Hawley noted they were looking into strategic planning sessions and asked for volunteers to help with the planning. Councilpersons Doeringer and Christian volunteered.

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**Conference Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Heidi J. Parker  
Clerk-Treasurer**

06/23/2014